

Assembly in doubt after Unionist snub to minister

By Richard Ford

The leaders of the two Ulster Unionist parties last night rejected an invitation to meet Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for discussions on the assembly whose future is to be decided within 10 days.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, said in a joint statement that they could not enter talks with the Government until the Anglo-Irish agreement was suspended.

Council at Westminster if agreement on devolved government was reached, sources suggest that given the present attitudes in the province there would be little enthusiasm for reviving a local body.

Mr King must make a decision within 10 days to allow necessary drafting of an Order in Council to dissolve the assembly and allow time for a debate in the Commons before the summer recess.

Although it has not been carrying out its statutory functions since the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement, the Government has become increasingly angered that no Unionist has so far publicly announced that he would stop drawing his entitlement to £17,000 in salary and expenses.

Mulhearn threat to defy party ban

The Labour Party last night faced a new constitutional crisis in the Militant stronghold of Liverpool.

Mr Tony Mulhearn, a councillor expelled from the party after being officially branded a Militant Tendency member by the national executive last week, planned to attend the annual meeting of Garston constituency party last night.

The constituency has voted to reject any expulsions imposed by the executive, and it was understood that Mr Mulhearn would be allowed to attend the meeting.

Mr Mulhearn said yesterday: "The constituency has already taken several decisions that they will not recognize the expulsions, and I have no reason to suppose that will change."

The party membership have expressed total opposition to what the right-wing dominated National Executive Committee has done. He said he was attending as a delegate from the National Graphical Association.



A youngster from the National Association of Boys' Clubs takes a victory walk on water at Nottingham after 300 canoeists in 285 boats formed a raft formation on the Trent and floated for 95 seconds, breaking the old record of 30 seconds

GEC says Nimrod problems 'solved'

By Rodney Cowton

Defence Correspondent GEC claimed yesterday to have made substantial progress towards solving its problems with the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft.

Mr James Prior, a former member of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet, and chairman of GEC, visited the establishment where the work is being carried out, and afterwards said that an aircraft was already flying with a new high-speed computer and improved aerials.

The project has so far cost about £900 million and is at least three years late. Under an agreement reached at the end of February, GEC was given six months in which to satisfy the Ministry of Defence that it could find solutions to the problems.

Meanwhile the ministry is considering bids from three American companies that are offering systems to replace the Nimrod.

The American aircraft, a Boeing Grumman and Lockheed, are undergoing technical assessment, and they are to submit firm prices by the middle of next month.

Mr Prior said that GEC would be submitting an approximate price estimate at the same time.

He refused to discuss GEC's price, but it is thought likely to be between £250 million and £400 million, which would be lower than the American aircraft.

Mr Prior also disclosed for the first time that last July the Ministry of Defence controller responsible for research had carried out a technical audit of GEC's programme. That audit had supported the technical validity of the programme to provide an initial operating capability.

Under the agreement reached in February the cost of GEC's £50 million development programme will be shared by the company and the ministry with the company getting its money back only if the ministry decides to go ahead with the project after this phase.

Priest denounces 'cruel' IRA killing

Three hundred mourners yesterday heard the Provisional IRA murder of an alleged informer described as "cruel, unjust and brutal" (Richard Ford writes).

Sittingbourne, Kent. He had been flown out of the province only hours after the Garda found 120 rifles and 18,000 rounds of ammunition in three arms dumps in counties Roscommon and Sligo in January.

Sport Aid 'squeeze' begins

Sport Aid organizers were yesterday endeavoring to maximize the money raised by Sunday's worldwide Race Against Time in aid of African famine relief. They are optimistic that the total will eventually far exceed the proceeds of Bob Geldof's original Band Aid scheme.

Sport Aid 'squeeze' begins

Mr Long, who organized global satellite television coverage of the event, was nursing blistered feet after taking part in the New York run. Mr Geldof had dropped from view and was taking a rest with friends, trying to throw off the tonsillitis which had threatened to prevent him leading 200,000 participants.

A Sport Aid spokesman said the Race Against Time would definitely be the last fund-raising event for the pop singer. "It is up to the politicians again now," he said.

Firewoman hands in uniform

Miss Lynne Gunning, the London firewoman whose complaints against six male colleagues for sexual harassment led to them being disciplined, handed in her uniform and left the service yesterday (Patricia Clough writes).

Firewoman hands in uniform

Assistant divisional officer Peter Holmes, chief of the Old Kent Road station where she had been serving, said Miss Gunning, aged 25, left on medical grounds.

Three held over art theft

Three men were being questioned last night in the Irish Republic by police investigating last week's multi-million pound theft from the Beit art collection.

Two were arrested on Monday with the wife of one of them, who was later allowed to leave. They were picked up after police found a dugout in a field that was big enough to store paintings or other stolen property.

The third suspect was detained yesterday. Police said there was nothing to link the dugout directly with the theft of 11 Old Masters from Russborough House, the home of Sir Alfred Beit, near Blessington, Co Wicklow, last Wednesday.

Attempt to quell fears over hot rocks project

The Department of Energy moved quickly yesterday to quell anxiety about the fate of British research into the development of geothermal energy, or the use of heat from hot rocks under the ground for generating electricity.

There were fears that the project, in progress in Cornwall, was threatened because of the Government's delay in renewing financial support.

Union to vote on Wapping

Prospects of an end to the 17-week-old dispute over the News International move to Wapping, east London, were uncertain today as the main print union involved began to ballot its members on the company's final offer.

The crucial vote was arranged yesterday by the executive of Sogat '83, representing more than 4,000 of the 5,500 print workers who were dismissed after striking in support of demands for lifetime employment last January.

The latest offer, which was presented at the weekend to all five unions concerned, lapses on Friday or on completion of any ballot that is taking place by then. Sogat officials said the result of their ballot would be known by the company's final deadline of June 6.

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Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, has tabled a question for when Parliament returns next week, asking Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to make a statement on the project's future.

Guide to aid home purchasers

A manual intended to help protect the interests of new home buyers was launched yesterday by the National House-Building Council, an independent body aimed at promoting better housing standards (Christopher Warman writes).

MP urges ban by journalists

A senior Tory backbencher yesterday urged journalists to boycott a union conference to which only black reporters have been invited.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, increased an initial offer of £15 million in redundancy payments to £50 million, and a proposed gift of a printing plant at Gray's Inn Road was enlarged to include the building which formerly housed the editorial offices of *The Sunday Times*.

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Doctors may be allowed to publicize services under proposed reforms

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The medical profession's disciplinary body, the General Medical Council (GMC), is proposing to relax its strict rules on advertising to allow information booklets to be freely available to patients on the services that their doctors provide.

The proposed rule changes, which will be circulated for widespread consultation before a final decision in November, will "legitimise" the information booklets at present produced for patients by doctors in many practices.

The change would, however, make the booklets freely available not only to existing patients but also to prospective patients through local libraries, post offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and other "centres" of public information.

That part of the proposal, however, looks set to be opposed by the British Medical Association which favours the production of information booklets and leaflets, but says that they should be available only to existing patients and to prospective patients who apply for them personally at the doctor's surgery.

In addition, the GMC is proposing that family practitioner committees and com-

munity health councils should be free to publish lists of local doctors, giving not just their names as at present, but also their specialist qualifications and the services they provide.

The GMC's proposed guidelines set out broad principles rather than specifying precisely what information could be provided.

But Dr Donald Irvine, chairman of the council's standards committee, that drew up the guidelines, said yesterday it could include details of surgery times; whether a deputizing service is used for out-of-hours cover; whether special clinics are run for family planning, ante- and post-natal care; or for diabetics and hypertensives; and whether health visitors and practice nurses work at the surgery.

Advertising in local papers or on radio or television would still be ruled out, with the new guidance saying that the information must be confined to "factual information of a non-promotional nature". It must not be intended to "gain an advantage over local colleagues", and must not make claims about the quality of service or the doctor's personal qualities or level of performance.

The changes are the result of pressure from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association for patients to be given more information about the services that doctors provide so as to make it easier to choose a family doctor.

There has also been strong pressure from the Government which at one stage was considering proposing that family doctors should be allowed to openly advertise their services.

The Government's discussion document on doctors' services, published last month, stopped short of a firm proposal on advertising, but said that "local media could be used to disseminate factual information about practices".

The GMC's proposal that the information booklets should be available at libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux as well as at doctors' surgeries is likely, however, to be opposed by the BMA.

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the BMA's family doctors committee, said yesterday: "The idea that they should be available at such places makes this very much more a marketing and advertising exercise."



The Lloyd's underwriting room yesterday on the first day of business at the £163 million headquarters in Lime Street, London (Photograph: John Manning).

Weather and dear sugar hit bee farms

Britain's commercial beekeepers are facing serious financial difficulties after months of cold, wet weather and artificially high EEC sugar prices (John Young writes).

In their natural state bees depend on pollen and nectar, and in a cold wet summer, when the ordinary pollination cycle is interrupted, they are less productive. When that is followed by a bad winter, as has happened in the past year, many older bees fail to survive.

When nectar is scarce commercial beekeepers make a substitute feed of syrup made from sugar mixed with water. But within the EEC beekeepers are obliged to pay the protected price of £400 a tonne, while important honey producers such as Israel are able to obtain it at the world market price of about £150 a tonne.

Mr Desmond Winslow, secretary of the Bee Farmers Association, said yesterday that beekeepers were paying far more than usual for supplementary supplies.

An additional irony was that EEC market support for sugar beet growers was costing taxpayers about £1 million a day.

Mr John Davies, who keeps about 300 hives near Shaftesbury in Dorset, said it was costing him £2,000, even in a good year, to feed his bees adequately.

Mothers could lose on family credits

Proposals to pay the new family credit for the low-paid through wage packets rather than a Department of Health and Social Services giro could cost some mothers about £16 a week, according to figures published yesterday by the Family Policy Studies Centre (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Family credit is to replace Family Income Supplement (FIS) for the low-paid when the Government introduces social security changes in 1988. At present FIS is paid by a DHSS giro, often to the mother rather than the father.

Under the family credit scheme, benefits will be paid into wage packets.

Ministers have agreed to review the proposal after Conservative backbench pressure. It is argued that it is likely to transfer money away from mothers, who usually have responsibility for children.

The centre said that, combined with the end of free school meals for children on FIS, a mother of two children aged under 11 and on an income of £80 a week would be about £16 a week worse off.

While in theory husbands would hand over the money from their pay packets, "often women do not know what their husbands earn and neither will they know how much credit is included for their children," the centre said.

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Science report

Ex-drivers depressed after stroke recovery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Most people who have been motorists before suffering a stroke do not return to the wheel after recovering from their illness, and many suffer from depression and reduced social activity as a result, a survey has found.

More than half of the patients - 58 per cent - who were able to drive before their stroke were not driving a year later, the survey involving 144 cases showed. The average age of the patients was just under 65 years, and 90 per cent were men.

The research, carried out by the department of neurology at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, included assessments of arm function, walking, functional ability, and intelligence quotient, and showed former drivers to be "significantly more disabled" than drivers.

Within the terms of the law, many people who have had a stroke are likely to have a "relevant disability" for more than three months, and should inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (DVLC) at Swansea. Few of the former drivers in the Bristol survey

had done so, although none disputed his or her obvious inability to drive.

Three-quarters of the patients who had given up driving told the researchers that they could not, or were not allowed, to drive because of physical or mental disability, and the others said they did not wish to resume motor-ing, or could not afford to do so.

Stopping driving was associated with a loss of social activities and more frequent depression among former drivers when compared with drivers.

Thirty-nine per cent of the group who had given up were "probably" or "certainly" depressed, in their own assessment. Only 7 per cent of those still driving came to the same conclusions.

"Loss of social activities appears to be associated with depression. The inability to drive after a stroke could well exacerbate this loss, and thus contribute to depression," the researchers have reported.

Source: *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* Vol 79 No 4 Pages 200-203

Woman given heart-lungs transplant

A woman was given a heart and lungs transplant at Papworth Hospital near Cambridge yesterday.

Mrs Linda Bower, aged 47, of The Green, Evenley, Northamptonshire, is the twelfth person to have undergone the double transplant.

She was seriously ill when she was admitted to Papworth early yesterday. Her four-and-a-half hour operation started at 2.30 a.m. Later she was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Video is used in choir girl murder hunt

Police officers throughout Britain will this week be shown a video film concerning the murder of Miss Sarah Harper, a Salvation Army choir girl whose body was found in the river Trent, near Nottingham.

Detectives hunting the killer said that the information in the film could lead to a vital breakthrough.

It is believed to be the first time a video film has been distributed in this way during a murder inquiry.

Pilgrims on first flight from 'papal airport'

The Irish Republic's controversial "papal airport" in remote Co Mayo began operating officially yesterday, in spite of the Dublin government's refusal to grant it a long-term licence, EEC reluctance to provide extra funds and howling gale-force winds.

More than 100 Roman Catholic pilgrims took off from Connacht Regional Airport in an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 named after Ireland's most recently created saint, Oliver Plunkett, a seventeenth-century martyr, and became the first passengers to use the multi-million-pound airport under the terms of a full licence.

The Lourdes-bound pilgrims' departure came three days before the air centre's ceremonial opening by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish opposition leader and former prime minister.

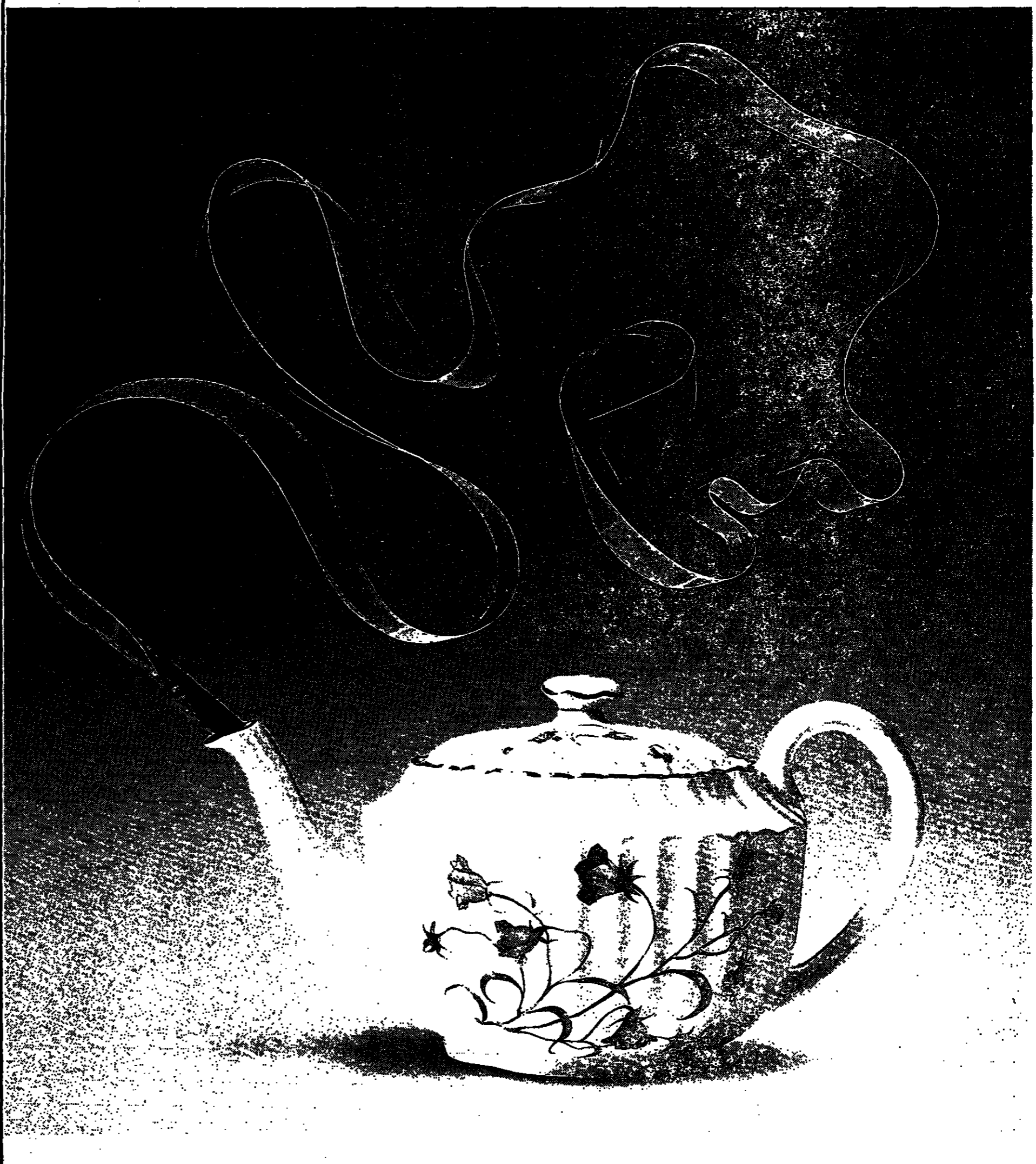
They were seen off by Monsignor James Horan, Ireland's best-known parish priest, the man in charge of the Marian Shrine in the village of Knock, the main reason for the construction of the airport.

Actor banned

Nigel Pivaro, aged 26, a Coronation Street actor, who overturned his car after drinking with friends, was banned from driving for a year and fined £275 by Manchester city magistrates yesterday.

Hoaxer fined

Derek Whyte, aged 24, of Dundee, was fined £50 by Uxbridge magistrates in west London yesterday for a hoax bomb alert at the South African Airways desk at Heathrow Airport on May 24.



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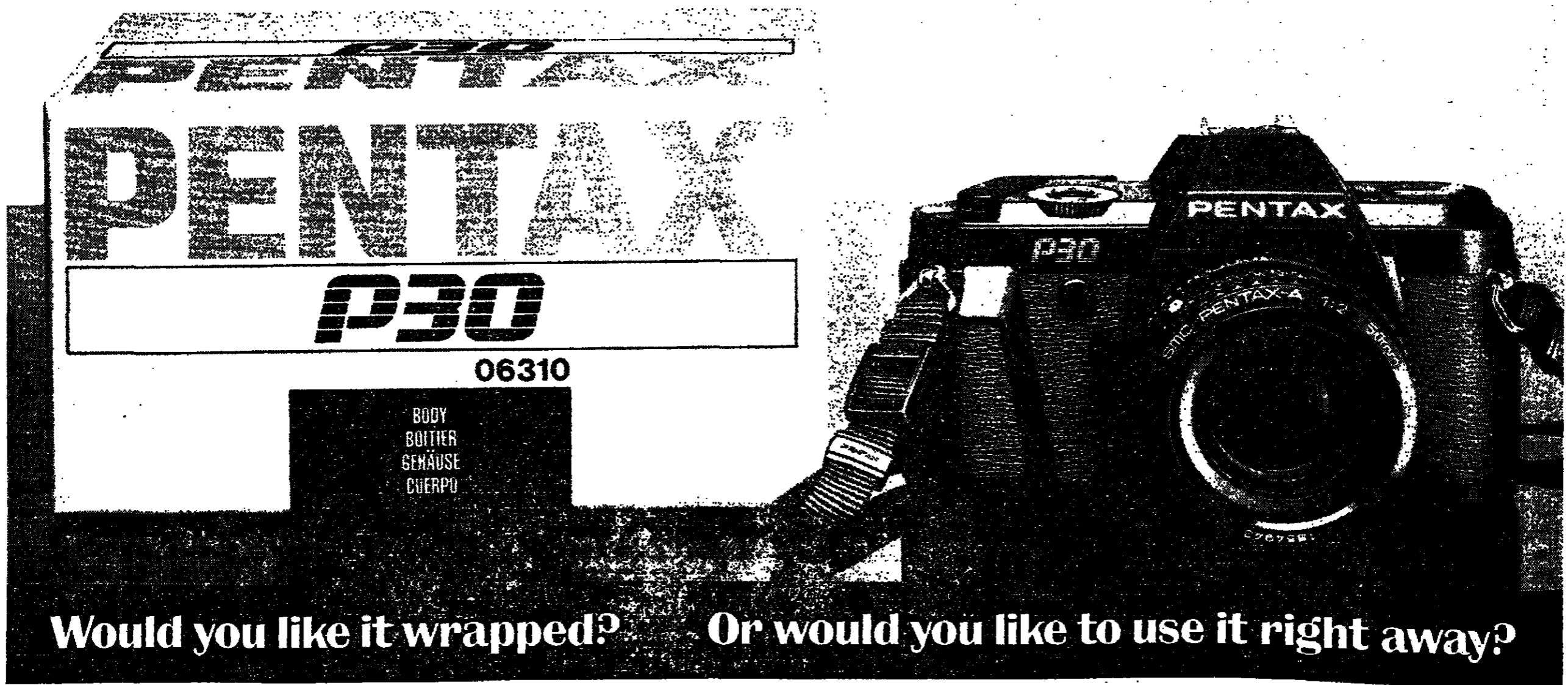
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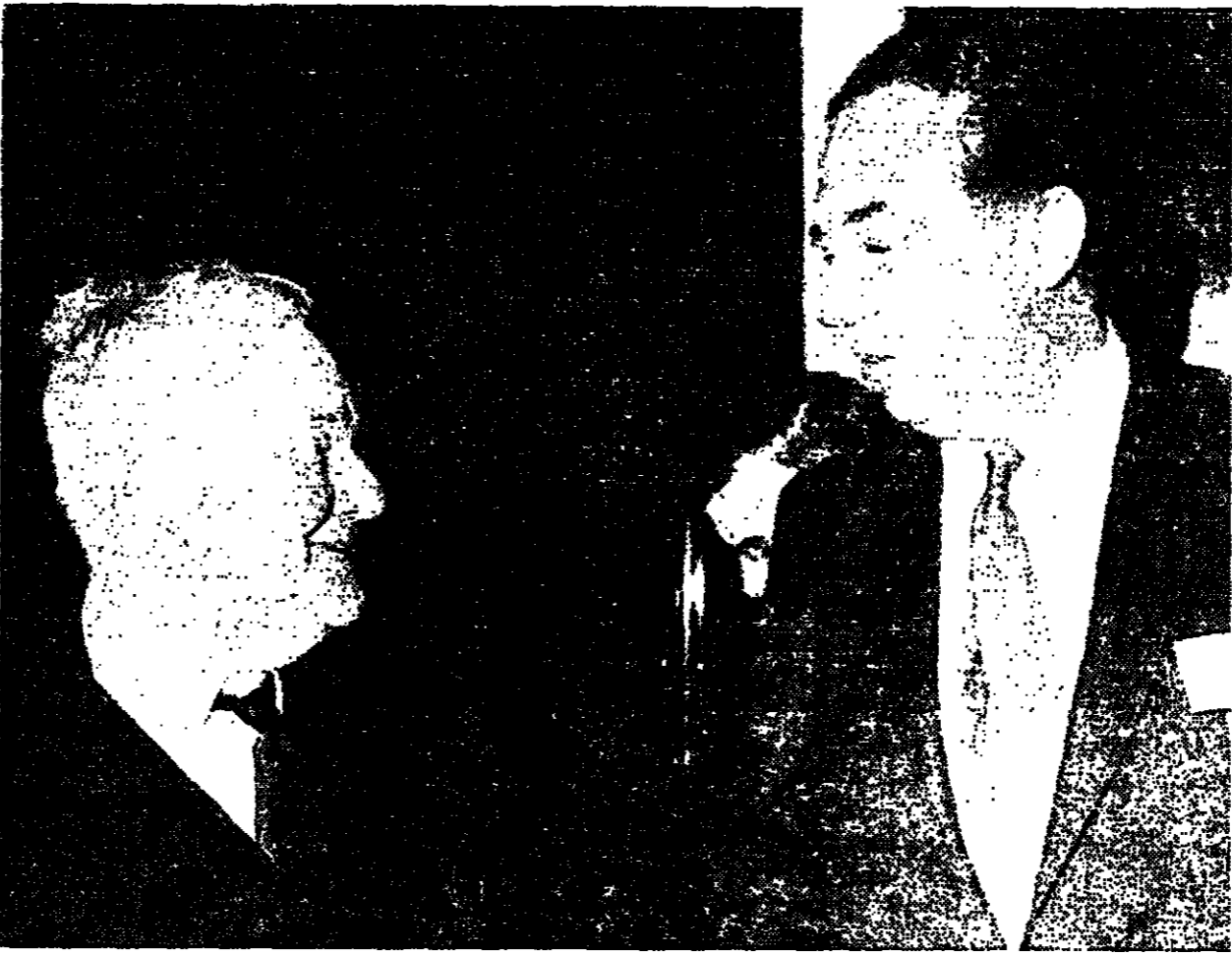
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THE BAR CONFERENCE Two-branches defended • Jury system praised • Insurance concern

Hostility between law professions 'certain recipe for disaster'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, warned the legal profession yesterday that mutual hostility between the Bar and solicitors or between either branch was a "certain recipe for mutual destruction".



Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, (left) with Mr Robert Alexander, QC, the chairman of the Bar Council, at the conference.

Bill for investment controls supported

Delegates were asked to support a Bill designed to tighten investment regulations. Mr Richard Sykes, QC, chairman of a legal workshop on company law, hailed the Financial Services Bill now going through Parliament as a radical change in an area where new laws were badly needed.

Police role in case inquiries attacked

The role of the police within the English adversarial system of justice has been responsible for large numbers of miscarriages of justice and for guilty men going free, Mr Ludovic Kennedy, the author and broadcaster, claimed yesterday.



Mr Ludovic Kennedy (right) with Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, leader of the northern eastern circuit.

Warning of trial split

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The new crown prosecution service is in danger of creating a split between prosecuting and defending barristers which could weaken the future quality of judges, a circuit leader said yesterday.

Support for juries in complex fraud trials

The jury is a cornerstone of our unwritten constitution and must be retained for complex fraud trials, Mr Michael Hill, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, told the conference.

Judicial system criticized

Speakers at a conference workshop on public law criticized the present judicial system for being unsatisfactory and unwieldy.

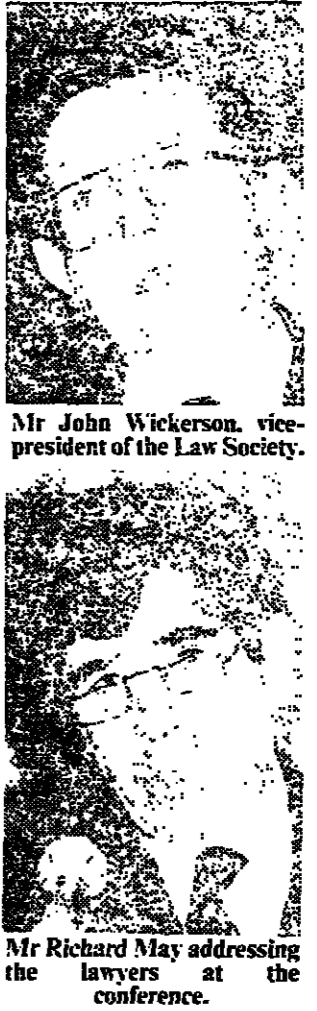
Rising cost of insurance

By a Staff Reporter

There is growing concern in the legal profession about the increasing premiums lawyers are having to pay for insurance against cases of negligence, and the tough standards imposed by judges on lawyers accused of unprofessional conduct.



Mr Peter Scott, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar Council.



Mr John Wickerson, vice-president of the Law Society, addressing the lawyers at the conference.

Advertisement for 'LEGAL APPOINTMENTS' featuring a large illustration of a judge's hat and the text 'IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD GET THE TIMES LEGAL APPOINTMENTS EVERY TUESDAY'.

Large advertisement for 'WORD PROCESSING BY TYPEWRITER THE OEM SCREENTYPER'. It includes a detailed description of the system, a list of features, a financing offer (9.9% APR), and a coupon for requesting more information. The OEM logo is prominently displayed.

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Domestic Appliances

Table listing various domestic appliances such as Washing Machines, Dish Washers, Vacuum Cleaners, and Refrigeration with their respective prices and features.

Refrigeration

Table listing refrigerators and fridges with specifications like capacity and price.

Electric Cookers

Table listing electric cookers with details on features like ovens and grills.

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Table listing Microwave Ovens with various models and prices.

Gas Appliances

Table listing gas appliances like cookers and ovens.

Small Appliances

Table listing small kitchen appliances like toasters and kettles.

Food Mixers - cont.

Table listing food mixers from brands like Kenwood and Morphy Richards.

Toasters

Table listing various toasters and their prices.

Electric Kettles

Table listing electric kettles with different capacities.

Filter Coffee Makers

Table listing filter coffee makers from brands like Krups and Philips.

General Household

Table listing various general household items.

Haircare

Table listing hair care products like shampoos and conditioners.

Colour T.V.'s

Table listing colour televisions with screen sizes and prices.

Home Computers

Table listing home computers from brands like Amstrad and Commodore.

Calculators

Table listing various scientific and financial calculators.

Digital Clock Radios

Table listing digital clock radios with alarm functions.

Transistor Radios

Table listing transistor radios with different features.

Radio Cassettes

Table listing various radio cassette tapes.

Video Recorders

Table listing video recorders from brands like VHS and Betamax.

Video Tapes

Table listing video tapes and their prices.

Television

Table listing televisions with screen sizes and prices.

Black & White T.V.'s

Table listing black and white televisions.

T.V. & Video Accessories

Table listing accessories for televisions and video equipment.

Telephones

Table listing various telephone models and their prices.

Personal Stereo - cont.

Table listing personal stereo systems and their prices.

In-Car Entertainment

Table listing in-car entertainment systems.

Car Radios

Table listing car radios with different features.

In-Car Hi-Fi

Table listing in-car hi-fi systems.

In-Car Hi-Fi Speakers

Table listing in-car hi-fi speakers.

Music Centres

Table listing music centres and their prices.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, with text like 'Israeli att...', 'defies...', 'withdraw...', and 'Coppola's...'.

Large advertisement at the bottom of the page for COMET DISCOUNT, featuring the text '£1250 INSTANT CREDIT With No Deposit' and 'Late Night Shopping Monday-Friday 9am until 8pm Saturday 9am until 5.30pm'.

Bulldozers move into Crossroads

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

A dozen government bulldozers moved into the Crossroads squatter camp yesterday and began levelling the area devastated during savage faction fighting last week. More than 4,000 shacks were destroyed, at least 42 people killed and more than 20,000 left homeless.

The Government says it intends to redevelop the area for black housing but will not allow former residents to return.

The plan is to shift them to a vast new black township called Khayelitsha on wind-swept sand dunes about 15 miles south-east of Cape Town. Most are reluctant to go because of the cost of commuting to Cape Town.

A case of typhoid was reported yesterday from one of the emergency relief centres where refugees from Crossroads have been given temporary shelter. A district council medical officer, Dr L.R. Tibbit, said instructions he had issued last week for the digging of pit latrines had not been carried out.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has issued a temporary injunction restraining the police, the Army and vigilantes from permitting or taking part in attacks on the remaining residents of Crossroads. Vigilantes are widely alleged to have been helped by police in last week's fighting.

The application for the injunction was made on Monday by six squatter leaders who claimed that the destruction of the shacks had been part of "a systematic plan". They said police and soldiers had threatened to attack other parts of the camp if these were not evacuated.



A woman fleeing the Crossroads camp with her child and a sheet of building iron as a bulldozer starts to clean up.

Detailed affidavits presented to the court by the squatters alleged that police supplied vigilantes with arms and ammunition, including grenade

throwers, and also took part themselves in the burning of the wood and corrugated iron shanties. The vigilantes, known as "witdoeke" (white handkerchiefs) from the white arm-bands they wear, are led by Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, a conservative figure who at one time ran the Crossroads settlement as a private fiefdom, exacting tithes and rents from

other squatters. In the past year of unrest, his position has been challenged by politically radical youngsters, who call themselves "the comrades" and are mostly members of the United Democratic Front, a loose alliance of more than 600 grassroots anti-apartheid organizations.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament, yesterday cancelled an emergency debate on the Crossroads allegations, on the grounds that the matter was *sub judice*. The court injunction is valid until June 13 when it will lapse unless extended. Meanwhile, the police and Army will have an opportunity to present evidence rebutting the squatters' allegations. The Speaker of the House of Assembly, the white chamber

More political fallout after Chernobyl

EEC move to replace East bloc food ban

From Richard Owen
Brussels

The EEC yesterday moved towards a new system for monitoring radiation in imported foodstuffs to replace the outright ban on East European imports imposed earlier this month after the Chernobyl disaster.

The ban expires on Saturday, but farm ministers ruled out compensation payments from EEC coffers for European farmers who have suffered losses as a result of anti-radiation measures.

The ban on East European food was proposed by the Commission on May 6, but ran into national differences among the Twelve over a scale for measuring radiation in food traded within the EEC. The ban was held up for over a week and was only eventually adopted on condition that it would be reviewed by the end of May.

EEC ambassadors met yesterday in an attempt to agree on a new scale for monitoring radiation in food entering the EEC from all third countries. The move again encountered problems when some countries objected that the levels laid down for external trade were at odds with those in force in parts of the Community.

Finns step back from the brink

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Finland's Rural party yesterday backed away from causing a government crisis and withdrew a motion which demanded the dismantling of the nation's four nuclear reactors by the year 2000.

The party is a junior partner in the four-party centre-left coalition of the Prime Minister, Mr Kalevi Sorsa, and its populist policies have led to frequent clashes.

Mr Sorsa made it clear that the Government would resign if the Rural party did not withdraw its motion, which he said would undermine the coalition's ability to handle energy policies.

The Rural party's parliamentary group needed only a short morning meeting to toe the line. Collapse of the Government would almost certainly have meant snap elections, and the party is doing badly in the opinion polls.

These difficulties were the motive behind the strongly anti-nuclear motion because the party badly needs new incentives.

The motion was a clear expression of how sensitive the nuclear power question has become. Finland relies heavily on nuclear power, which produces more than 40 per cent of its electricity. Environmentalists have campaigned against ordering a

fifth 1,000-megawatt reactor, and most parties were in difficulties with their rank and file even before Chernobyl.

The disaster hit like lightning in the middle of a tense internal debate, and the fifth reactor will not now be ordered before the next elections in March 1987, if ever.

Mr Sorsa's coalition faces another test next week when it

UK strategy review

Mrs Thatcher will review Britain's preparedness to face a nuclear disaster (see Murray writes from Jerusalem). During her visit to Israel she met Dr Yair Reizer, who was invited to Moscow to help carry out bone marrow transplant surgery on Chernobyl victims. He told her precious time was lost in tissue typing those who had been exposed and that this had made treatment difficult.

defends its actions against a no-confidence motion from the Conservative opposition.

This criticizes the Government's inability to give accurate and quick information about the effects of the Chernobyl accident.

The Government's handling of the disaster caused an immediate outcry because it also fed unfounded rumours about dangerously high radioactivity levels.

Abe heads for cool reception

From David Watts
Tokyo

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, walks into the bear's cage tomorrow. He is likely to get a cool reception in Moscow on Chernobyl and terrorism, and will find himself having to account, as the representative of the chairman of the seven Western summit nations, for their stance on both issues.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry admits that the Soviet reaction, particularly on Chernobyl, is likely to be "fierce" and may well overshadow any hopes that the Japanese have of progress on bilateral issues.

Mr Abe will also be explaining the summit nations' assessment of the present state of East-West relations in the absence of the meeting between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, which was to have been held this month.

The Japanese are keen to institutionalize meetings between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, but that hardly accounts for the choice of what is an awkward moment when Moscow can make full play of Japan's endorsement of apparently anti-Soviet positions.

The timing has more to do with Japanese domestic politics than international considerations - Mr Abe is likely to be a strong candidate to replace the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, this autumn and would like to have a successful visit to Moscow among his credentials.

Mr Abe's visit will be brief so the chances of progress will be slim, unless Moscow's desire for Japanese technology tips the balance.

Kohl goes on nuclear offensive

From Frank Johnson
Bonn

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have been on the defensive for weeks about whether the Chernobyl disaster proves that nuclear power is unsafe in West Germany, have begun a counter-offensive to show it proves nothing of the sort.

Chancellor Kohl said the Government will check safety in all nuclear plants and emphasized that Chernobyl tells us more about the Soviet Union in general than about nuclear power in general.

"The inadequate information policy of the Soviet Union after the reactor accident in Chernobyl has not strengthened confidence in Soviet arms control proposals, especially in their verification," he said.

Vogel's remarks to a meeting of young Christian Democrats last Monday got Herr Kohl wide press coverage when he said: "It's pathetic of the SPD (Social Democrats) to say 'We're going to shut nuclear power plants down soon'." He described the widespread West German opposition to nuclear power as "stupid cultural pessimism".

The Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Herr Lothar Späth, said a short-term abandoning of nuclear energy would have catastrophic ecological consequences.

And the Federal Minister of Research and Technology, Herr Hans Riesenhuber, said the renunciation of nuclear energy by industrial nations would have direct consequences for the Third World.

If the world's developed nations bought up the limited amounts of fossil energy it would create additional difficulties for those with growing populations, he said.

The Christian Democrat counter-offensive has come not a moment too soon for the party's candidates in the Lower Saxony Land election on June 15.

Chernobyl seems to have turned this into a close contest - with the SPD now favourites to take over government from the CDU. But it is probably too late to decide the outcome.

There remains, however, the general election, due next January. A leading opinion poll said Chernobyl had affected public opinion more than the 1962 Cuba crisis.

Honduras seeks reward for backing Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Azcona of Honduras is seeking to wring more aid out of a reluctant United States in return for continued support of President Reagan's assault on Nicaragua.

Without Honduran help the Contra battle would certainly collapse. It might do so anyway if Congress next month rejects Mr Reagan's request for \$100 million (£66 million) in aid for the rebels.

The two presidents met at the White House yesterday to discuss the rebels' crisis and to study the outcome of the summit of Central American leaders in Guatemala at the

weekend, which failed to produce a substantial regional peace agreement.

Honduras is clearly following in its lot so enthusiastically with America's anti-Sandinista campaign. Should the Contras disintegrate, Honduras would have to deal with about 10,000 homeless fighters and their relatives.

President Azcona, who was elected three months ago, has delighted the Reagan Administration by publicly supporting the onslaught against Nicaragua.

No match for a lady

New York (Reuters) - A purse-snatcher was in jail yesterday because he tried to rob an English aristocrat, aged 37.

Lady Sarah Tucker was near her Fifth Avenue flat when José Ramos, aged 30, sped by on his bicycle and

snatched her handbag.

A police spokesman said: "Lady Sarah chased him and caught up with him at a traffic light. She knocked him off his bicycle and started beating him about the head with her umbrella. Police arrived... found Ramos cowering."

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US goes in spoils at East-

Dobrynin to centre

Carrington wimps and

سكرا على الراجحي

US goes out on a limb in spoiling consensus at East-West meeting

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The United States yesterday isolated itself from the other 34 countries at the Bern conference on East-West human contacts by refusing at the last minute to endorse the final declaration.

Western delegations shared the British view that this was a disappointing end to six weeks of discussions which had at least produced indications that Soviet bloc countries were aware that some of the restrictions on their people must be relaxed.

The final document, a compromise put forward by Switzerland on behalf of the neutral and non-aligned nations, was seen as a step in the right direction.

The US delegation had given the impression that it would go along with a consensus after consulting Washington. Its leader, Michael Novak, intimated that the credibility of the Helsinki process would be undermined were the US to associate itself with "slight" a document, devoid of measures to ensure compliance with its objectives.

The general conclusion was that administration hardliners had ordered a veto.

The Soviet delegation, saying it regretted this negative

attitude, asked the Americans to reconsider their position and doubted whether "ordinary people" would understand it.

"The draft final declaration we ended up with had in our view some good things in it," Sir Anthony Williams, leader of the British delegation, said. "But one of the things about the whole Helsinki process is that it's a matter of battering on, trying to press for better observance of undertakings that have been entered into."

"Here, we were attempting to ensure that in human contacts things do not move less smoothly than they need. In many of these things we may have achieved something."

The Swiss delegate, Mr Edouard Brunner, remarked: "One cannot do diplomacy with amateurs."

Mr Niall MacDermott, Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, said: "It would surely have been better to accept the compromise proposals in the draft declaration, which, even if modest, would have created a better atmosphere for the Helsinki review conference opening in November in Vienna."

"The US demands were hardly realistic in the present situation of East-West tension, which the US seems anxious to prolong."

The final draft was estimated by its compilers to have 20 per cent more provisions of substance than the document that emerged in 1983 from the first Helsinki review conference in Madrid, and about 40 per cent more than the 1975 Helsinki Final Act itself.

The purpose of the conference of experts was to examine the extent to which provisions of the Helsinki declaration were being respected and determine how they could be more effective.

The compromise draft set out proposals for facilitating family meetings and reunifications — with particular consideration for children — and for eliminating obstacles to East-West marriages "provided personal and professional circumstances permit".

Other proposals concerned private and professional travel and improving conditions for individual or group tourism.

Another measure aimed to end interference in East-West postal and telephone services.

Religious institutions were to be allowed to exchange visits and organize gatherings and pilgrimages.



Ernest Wheeler, aged three, and his five-year-old sister, Jina, who lost their uncle in the Vietnam war, holding their ears during a 21-gun Memorial Day salute in Dallas, Texas.

Tass correspondent goes missing

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

A correspondent at the Helsinki office of the official Soviet news agency, Tass, has disappeared, according to unconfirmed reports.

The Soviet Embassy has asked Finnish police to look for the family of Mr Raivo

United States.

The exact nature of tasks undertaken by Mr Ojasaar are not known, but the Helsinki evening paper, *Ilmasomat*, speculates that he has connections with one of the Soviet intelligence agencies.

Wife was the pilot in Paris jailbreak

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The mysterious woman who piloted the helicopter in the spectacular getaway from the Santé prison in Paris was the escaped prisoner's wife, police confirmed yesterday. She appears to have been preparing herself for the daring flight for the past eight months.

Police named the woman as Nadine Bourgain, aged 35, who had married Michel Vanjour, jailed last year for 18 years for armed robbery, while he was in prison in 1979, serving a sentence for another robbery. The couple have a daughter, aged five.

Vanjour escaped from the Santé prison on Monday after scrambling aboard a helicopter, flown by his wife, as it hovered above the roof of the prison. Cables had previously been stretched across the courtyard of the prison to prevent helicopters from landing for such an escape bid.

Using the false name of Léna Rigon, Nadine Bourgain had gone to a helicopter school in the Haute Savoie last August to prepare herself for her husband's break-out.

On returning to the Paris region, where she lives, she continued to fly, hiring an Alouette 2 — the same type of helicopter used in the escape.

Brussels strike runs out of steam

From Richard Owen, Brussels

This month's wave of public-sector strikes protesting against budget cuts of nearly £3 billion yesterday showed signs of petering out in the face of the Government's determination not to back down.

Public transport, postal and rubbish collection services were expected to return to normal this week. Brussels airport has already resumed normal operations.

Belgian teachers in both private and state schools yesterday went against the general trend by coming out on strike, for fear that recent educational reforms might be undermined by the cuts.

But government officials doubted that the teachers' action would breathe new life into the strike movement and said that Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, expected to survive a vote of no confidence in Parliament today.

The trade unions have called a further one-day strike and national demonstration for Saturday.

The centre-right coalition Government has condemned attempts by the Socialist unions to spread the strike action to private companies.

Moscow's canny Kissinger

Dobrynin moves to centre stage

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The cordial, and occasionally even jovial, meeting between British parliamentarians and a Soviet delegation led by Mr Gorbachev has confirmed that Mr Anatoly Dobrynin is now playing a central role in Soviet foreign policy-making.

Tall and avuncular, with 24 years of diplomatic back-slapping in Washington behind him, Mr Dobrynin, in his new post as one of the 11 secretaries of the Communist Party's ruling Central Committee, has become the catalyst for the biggest shake-up in Moscow's foreign policy machine for years.

After Monday's meeting in the Kremlin, both Lord Whitelaw, the deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, remarked on the part played by the former Washington envoy in the two-and-a-half hours of talks. They said Mr Dobrynin's command of English was such that on more than one occasion he had to step in and provide the sentence for a particular phrase.

As head of the Central Committee's international department, he has been described by more than one Western diplomat as the Soviet Henry Kissinger. Until his recent return to Moscow, the committee's influence had been badly eroded, both by the age of his predecessor, Mr Boris Ponomarev, and the power of Mr Andrei Gromyko, who was only moved upstairs from the Foreign Ministry to the presidency last July.

The comparison with Mr Kissinger comes not only from a similar intellectual deftness, but also because of the new weight given to the Communist Party in the crucial field of foreign policy.

One Kremlin-watcher explained: "If the Foreign Ministry is the equivalent of the US State Department, the committee under Dobrynin is becoming the National Security Council..." As the communist system fully intended, the minister's role in formulating policy is being downgraded.

At the age of 66, Mr Dobrynin is regarded by American politicians as the Soviet official with the deepest understanding of the Western mind. He is also seen as holding genuine wish for some form of coexistence between East and West. "During most of his time in Washington, he was the very



Mr Dobrynin, leading the foreign policy shake-up.

epitome of it (coexistence)," one American observer said yesterday.

Although Mr Dobrynin's taste for the good things of life may be out of tune with the new atmosphere of austerity being encouraged inside the Kremlin, his proven ability to sell Soviet policies to the West is known to be greatly prized by Mr Gorbachev.

In the policy-making field, he is being assisted by another American specialist, Mr Georgy Kornienko, who was moved from the position of First Deputy Foreign Minister, adding to the switch in influence from ministry to party. His other deputy is the well-respected Mr Vadim Zagladin.

Mr Gorbachev's successful meeting with the British delegation followed last week's important in-camera Kremlin conference, which signified a wholesale revamp of Soviet diplomacy and set the seal for Mr Dobrynin's new position of influence.

Mr Healey said the shake-up in the foreign affairs machine was one reason why recent arms control initiatives launched by Mr Gorbachev have failed to produce material results in Soviet negotiating positions at Geneva and elsewhere. "The trouble is that in recent months some of these people have just not known who their real boss was," he said.

Although Monday's get-together was public proof of Mr Dobrynin's influence, the MPs indicated it was also proof that Soviet foreign policy was now fully in the hands of the Kremlin leader. "There was no question that Mr Gorbachev was the man really in charge," one MP said. "It was an impressive performance."

Carrington worried by 'wimps' and 'cowboys'

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday gave a warning of the dangers of "megaphone cartoonery" on both sides of the Atlantic, "with Eurowimps in one set of papers and American cowboys in the other".

He was speaking on the eve of the six-monthly Nato foreign ministers' meeting, which opens in Halifax, Nova Scotia, tomorrow.

Before leaving for Halifax today, Lord Carrington said in Montreal that Nato need not be unduly gloomy and had shown that it had the resilience to overcome difficulties.

Headlines and cartoons about European-American differences within the alliance would not last for ever. "But the attitudes they reflect may prove long-lived and need to be taken seriously," he said.

Referring to a recent contentious issue within Nato — how to deal with terrorism in general and Libya in particular — Lord Carrington said the Nato treaty spoke of a commitment to mutual help in the event of an attack in Europe or North America.

Libya was clearly out of the Nato area, and the American action was a purely national one, he said.

But the US could have invoked the Nato treaty when American ships came under Libyan fire in the Mediterranean. Italy could also have invoked it when Libyan rockets were fired at the island of Lampedusa.

He said there was a danger of falling back from the higher levels many Nato members had achieved in defence budgets.

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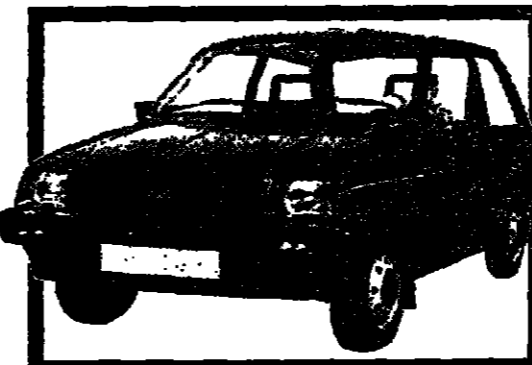
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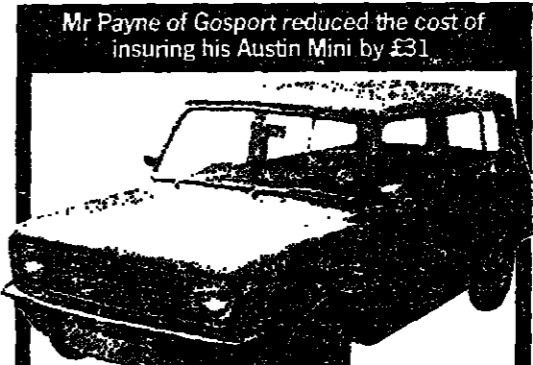
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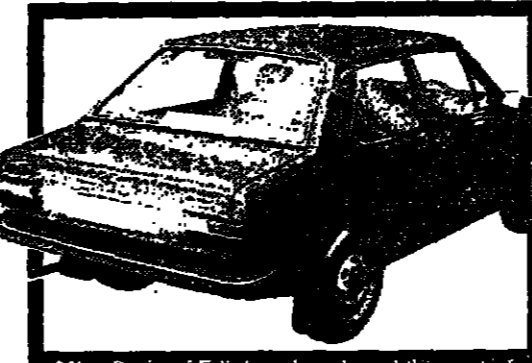
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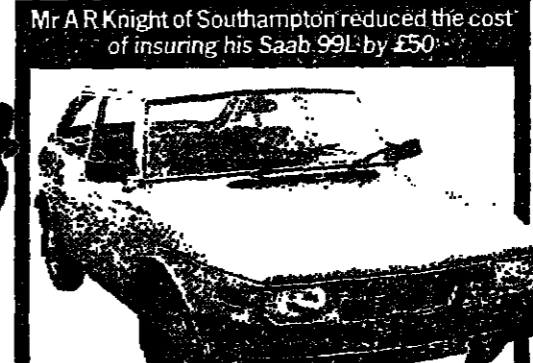
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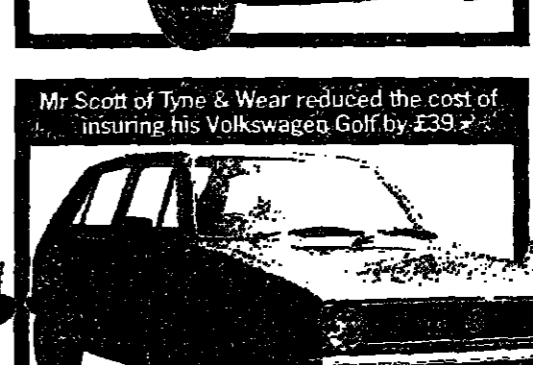
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Premier sacks army chief in Bangkok political storm

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the ambitious Thai Army commander-in-chief who was due to retire in three months, was yesterday dismissed because of his political activities. It was the first time in Thailand's modern history that a civilian government has dismissed its military chief.

On his return to Bangkok from a visit to the south, General Arthit said he would accept his dismissal. There would be no problems as he would be happy to work with his successor, General Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth, who met him at the airport.

General Arthit dismissed suggestions that sections of the Army might stage a coup in protest at his sacking. He said he would remain in the Army as supreme commander, a symbolic post with no troops under his command, until his retirement in August.

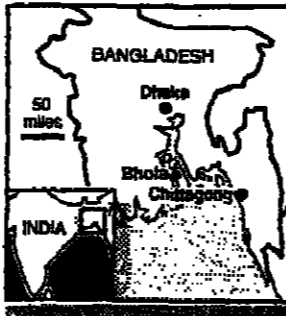
His dismissal followed months of wrangling with General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, and could have wide repercussions, particularly in the run-up to the general election on July 27.

The only government statement made yesterday came from its chief spokesman, who said the dismissal had been "made necessary by the ongoing situation". He is believed to have been referring

Father searches for son as the bodies pile up

From Ahmed Fazi Dhaka

Rahim Bhuiya, a village trader, was looking for his three-year-old son as divers brought in a fresh load of bodies from the ferry which sank in a storm on the River Meghna in Bangladesh.



Officials believe that about 400 of the estimated 600 on board were drowned in the second serious ferry disaster in five weeks. The over-crowded boat was caught in the storm on its way to Dhaka from the southern coastal island of Bhola.

Mr Bhuiya scrambled to see the bodies but officials quickly covered the pile with a white cloth. The corpses had become too bloated to be recognized.

Yesterday's clear blue sky over the southern Bangladesh township, about 85 miles from Dhaka, belied the tragedy at the weekend. But the piles of bodies and the sunken ferry were poignant reminders of Sunday night.

When I reached the town by speed boat, hundreds of curious villagers had lined the bank of the river.

With them mingled survivors like Mr Bhuiya. More than 150 bodies had to be handed over to relatives, but many were unclaimed and will be given a mass burial.

"We cannot keep these bodies any longer otherwise the whole area will be contaminated with the stench," Mr Saleh Hasan, a local magistrate who was helping the rescue operation, said.

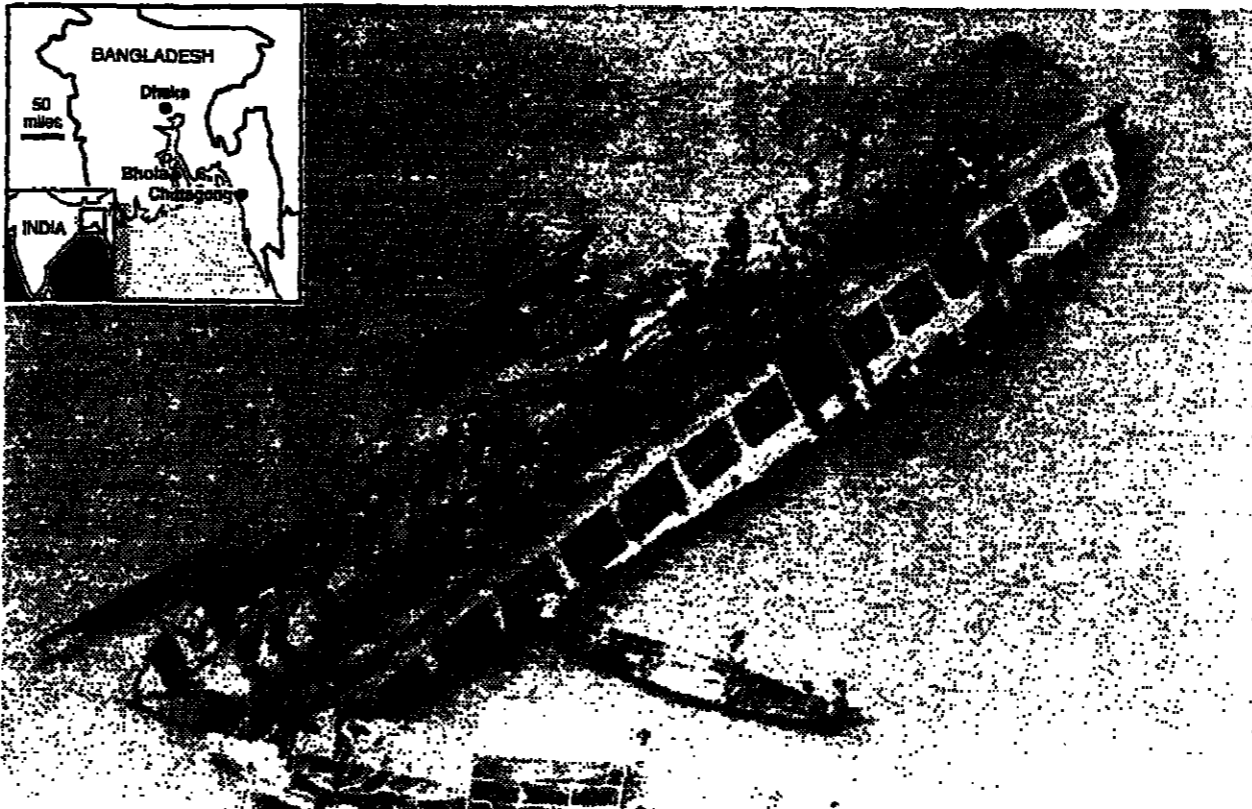
President Ershad flew to the township in a helicopter on Monday. "Give them a decent burial," he ordered. "That's the only thing we can do now."

In April, another double-decker ferry carrying about 500 passengers went down about 25 miles from Dhaka. About 200 people are believed to have died.

The frequency of the disasters has embarrassed the Government. General Ershad has ordered the suspension of the use of double-decker ferries until qualified naval engineers have checked for design flaws.

"It is sickening the way they load these ferries," General Ershad said as he called for tough measures against those who break the rules.

But for Mr Bhuiya and his son, it is already too late.



Survivors huddle on the surricken Bangladesh ferry which capsized in a storm on the Meghna river on Sunday night.

Nakasone chooses July date for poll

From David Watts Tokyo

The Japanese Cabinet decided yesterday to convene an extraordinary Diet session next Monday to clear the way for general elections in July. The session is expected to be dissolved almost immediately, despite opposition boycott threats, allowing the Government to hold elections in both houses on July 6.

Upper house elections were already due this summer and the Government hopes to benefit from a higher turnout by having both polls on the same day.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, secured approval for the poll after a last-minute bargaining session with the only leading member of the Liberal Democratic Party still holding out, Mr Kichii Miyazawa, chairman of the party's executive board and a possible challenger to Mr Nakasone for the party leadership this autumn.

The former foreign minister was persuaded to join the consensus after Mr Nakasone promised to abandon his policy of holding down expenditure in favour of using government money to reflate the economy this autumn — something Mr Miyazawa has been advocating for some time.

Tamils blast bridges

Colombo — Tamil guerrillas destroyed two small bridges in the Jaffna district to disrupt supplies, Sri Lankan security sources said yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes). The army camp established at Kavits last week is not affected, since supplies can be flown in.

The Ministry of National Security said three guerrillas were shot dead on Sunday in Amparai district of the Eastern Province when they tried to fire at police.

Speaker ousted by Pakistan MPs

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

The ruling official parliamentary group last night removed Mr Fakhr Imam, the Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly, after a 10-hour debate on a no-confidence motion tabled by a member of the government party.

The action against Mr Imam arose from his decision on May 7 to refer to the chief election commissioner a question about the validity of the national assembly membership of the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and his party secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar Laleka.

The question had been raised in February by two independent members of the assembly.

Mr Imam was elected Speaker in March 1985 when President Zia, then military ruler of Pakistan, revived Parliament after eight-and-a-half years of martial law.

The Speaker had refused to join the ruling parliamentary party on its creation last February and was accused of subverting the Junejo Government by siding with independent members opposed to the Government.

He denied the charges and asserted that history would judge whether it was the Speaker or the Prime Minister who balanced the scales. Voting for the resolution was 152-72.

The reference Mr Imam had sent to the chief election commissioner could lead to the disqualification of Mr Junejo as an MP.

The 42-year-old Speaker, in a hard-hitting speech, accused Mr Junejo of preferring autocracy to democracy in urging the ruling party to move the no-confidence resolution.

Without naming General Zia, Mr Imam disclosed that even before his election he had been telephoned and asked to stand down in favour of the regime's favourite.

Political observers believe that the Junejo Government, which has a narrow political base, has alienated a sizeable political segment in the country's biggest province, the Punjab, by ousting the independent Mr Imam.

Mr Junejo, from Sindh, faces a hostile political climate in his home province because of the regime's hanging of the former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, his daughter, who returned to Pakistan in April to lead the left-of-centre People's Party, has been campaigning for fresh elections under the constitution her father enacted in 1973.

Observers predict that Mr Imam's removal will give impetus to the political undercurrents in Punjab which claim that the leadership of the federation should go to the largest province.



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Lange tour worries opponents

From Richard Long Wellington

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, whose anti-nuclear policies are opposed by London and Washington, will begin a visit to Europe with a speech to an anti-nuclear group in Cologne tomorrow.

His scheduled address to the Sixth World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War drew questions in Parliament, where the former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, asked if Mr Lange would be pursuing his theme in spite of objections from the Bonn Government.

When Mr Lange recently criticized Nato nations for relying on the nuclear response, it was seen as the start of a move to export Wellington's anti-nuclear policies.

Labour Party officials here say Mr Lange is aware of the prospects of a backlash if he pushes the anti-nuclear line hard in countries which are jittery in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster.



Mr Lange: concern over his anti-nuclear stance.

Corruption crackdown in Kabul

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

A campaign against embezzlement, bribery and property theft is being waged by Dr Najib, the new Afghan leader.

Western embassies suggested yesterday that the campaign, which one diplomat called "Gorbachovism", was causing a good deal of fear among bureaucrats.

It was also suggested by a Western observer that Dr Najib was using the files he had amassed as head of Khad, the secret police, to silence opposition to his takeover from President Karmal.

The campaign was a theme of the Politburo meeting of the ruling People's Democratic Party on May 8. It has surfaced again in Dr Najib's addresses to his "meet, hear and instruct the people drive".

The publicity that his tour received in the Afghan media last week, as he met a border tribal assembly or a gathering of armed political commissars, reinforces the impression that he is heading, in the words of one diplomat, "a one-man triumvirate".

The other two triumvirs, President Karmal, whom Dr Najib replaced as party secretary, and Mr Sultan Ali Khatmand, the Prime Minister, have registered almost no presence in the media for three weeks.

Meanwhile, the campaign to close the border to guerrillas from Pakistan continues with unusual ferocity around the city of Khost. An Afghan military source described helicopter loads of casualties being brought back to Kabul, from the battle.

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MRS THATCHER IN ISRAEL

Mrs Thatcher managed to upset both right-wing Israelis and left-wing Palestinians during her four-day visit to Jerusalem. In doing so, however, she made sure that Britain's voice was heard more clearly in the Middle East than has been the case for many years.

papers described as a swift rebuff for her proposals on the administration of Israel's occupied territories. The second was much more difficult. She went with sparse hopes and fewer expectations of succeeding where others had failed.

is prepared to accept some Palestinian involvement, it remains opposed to the PLO as an organization involved in terrorism and dedicated to its own destruction. With Mr Shamir due to replace Mr Peres as prime minister in October, it is difficult to see Jerusalem becoming more flexible on this issue.

COMMITMENT IN BERLIN

As the Shadow Foreign Secretary tries yet again to trade Britain's nuclear deterrent for a Soviet promise to turn its warheads in the other direction, he - and others - would do well to contemplate the value of earlier Soviet promises. One of these relates to Berlin.

omatic status is not one of them. For diplomatic purposes, Berlin is undivided and diplomats posted to Berlin, East or West, are permitted to come and go between the two zones on diplomatic passes alone.

ingly capitalized on its special relationship with the Federal Republic and the West to establish itself on the diplomatic scene. Suspension of that recognition would be as deep a disappointment to East Germany as the withdrawal of the Soviet bloc from the Los Angeles Olympics two years ago.

THE GREAT UGC FREEZE

The Government might rate its handling of the universities as a success story. Its plans for their spending have, more or less, been realized, unlike its plans in secondary education, agriculture, and defence.

laboratory research. On the other side are ministers who want to deliver their spending targets and are only too happy to have an academic body make judgements on their behalf using a vocabulary in which "excellence" and "standards" are key words.

thing. It relies on peer review and it does not exclude other physics departments which might be capable of excellent work in the future. But the UGC agglomerates to itself a mountain of information, objective and anecdotal, and makes a once-for-all judgement. It freezes a pattern of academic activity and academic worth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping the lid on nuclear secrets

From Mr David Lowry
Sir, In Parliament on May 13 Environment Secretary, Kenneth Baker, pledged an easing of the secrecy that has bedevilled civil nuclear energy matters.

Lords warning on EEC treaty

From Mr Peter Horsfield, QC, and Mr Lucian Price, QC
Sir, The powers of the United Kingdom Parliament will be weakened by the Single European Act.

Aids in London

From Dr Adam Lawrence
Sir, Your article on the health service in London (May 12) describes accurately the present position of strain in the hospitals and implies that the future is very serious.

Business penalty

From Mr Dennis J. Fowle
Sir, Lord Young appears to be fighting a losing battle in trying to take real bureaucratic burdens off the backs of business.

Musical excellence

From Mr James Gibb
Sir, In her letter of May 15 Miss Fanny Waterman demurred from Sir Ian Hunter's opinion (April 26) that the overall standard of our music colleges was "already high", citing her experience as a juror in international piano competitions in which British pianists, with their inadequate techniques, have fared badly.

Priest and people

From Mrs Anne Inman
Sir, In warning of the culture shock for Anglicans in the event of union between the sees of Rome and Canterbury, Jonathan Harfield (feature, May 17) seems not to take into account the possibility of change within the Roman Catholic Church.

Open all hours

From Mrs M. E. Booth
Sir, "Open from 8.30 am - 6.30 pm all day." Urgent cases will be seen the same day, whether or not they have an appointment.

Hang 'em all

From Mr F. J. Dupays
Sir, According to statistics supplied by the Royal Academy, out of 12,544 works submitted for inclusion in this year's summer exhibition, 2,834 were selected but not hung.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 28 1898

Since the 16th century Cuba had been colonized by Spain. In 1897 after a series of bloody wars between the Spanish and Cuban rebels, the USA offered to act as a mediator.

USA TROOPS INVADE CUBA

(From a report by a correspondent of the U.S. Transport Service.) OFF HAVANA, May 13. Yesterday morning, in broad daylight, we steamed up to the entrance of Havana and leisurely inspected Morro Castle, the light-house, and half-a-dozen spires of her many handsome churches.

We steamed along to the mouth of Cuban Bay, about 20 miles west of Havana, where we saw no sign of shipping, although our Cuban friends tried to persuade us that several Spanish torpedo-boats lay there in ambush.

Answering back

From Mrs Morar Lucas
Sir, My grandfather, born in the 1850s, had firm views on everything, including "thank you" letters. He gave a wedding present and received no acknowledgement.

GCSE standards

From Mr D. G. Evans
Sir, It is nearly 20 years since this country embarked on the new internationally agreed system of technical units (SI units). Much of the country has in that time transferred fully or in part to litres, grammes, millimetres, Newtons, Celsius and so on.

Answering back

From Mrs E. A. Hunt
Sir, I write to assure Mrs Hewitt (May 21) that the thank-you letter is not yet dead.

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THE ARTS

Television

Having had a foretaste of David Cohen's documentary 'Firepoint '86: Victims' (Central) on Monday night's Open The Box, the viewer may have been more than usually alert to the possibility of artificial manipulation in these interviews with the victims of crime. How many takes were needed to elicit tears from the widow of a rickshaw collector who was killed by a metal spike through the head? Given the harrowing circumstances of the case, the most likely answer would be "one".



An androgynous Cleopatra (Vanessa Redgrave) plays games with a hypnotized Antony (Timothy Dalton)

Antony and Cleopatra Haymarket

One thing is clear from the first of Theatr Clwyd's two Haymarket productions: the directors (Toby Robertson and Christopher Selbie) are aiming to do more than put a frame round Vanessa Redgrave.

Martin Cropper

Concert

CBSO/Rattle Wells Cathedral

Even by the extraordinary standards of Simon Rattle's recent achievements, this was something special: a performance of Messiaen's Turanghala Symphony within the visually and acoustically welcoming ambience of a great cathedral, and with the composer there to be one hopes, thunderstruck with the rest of us.

their experience together, in their perfectly synchronized changes of speed and volume. Mr Rattle is a bit freer with his rallentandos than the score requires, but the effect is to assure the impression of a giant machine reaching with effort the top of a hill in order to freewheel exuberantly down the other side.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Volatility of contrasts

La forza del destino Bavarian State Opera, Munich

The sense of destiny in La forza del destino is so clearly fastidiously by the characters involved that Verdi's St Petersburg opera might just as well have been called "War and Peace"; everyone is either running after the one or crying for the other, and the result is a sad, sprawling epic of human degradation and destruction, sanctified by the tragic nobility of Verdi's music. It is this almost contradictory quality of heroic pessimism that is highlighted in the new Munich production, which is staged by Götz Friedrich and conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli.



Kurt Moll as the Father Superior, Julia Varady as Leonora

before rather than after the first Carlo-Alvaro fight, thereby keeping Melitone's sermon well apart from his hectoring of the beggars at the start of Act IV. At the end, Alvaro expires next to Leonora, though Friedrich leaves us to decide whether this is Liebestod or sheer world-weariness.

The action takes place in a giant brick-and-concrete ruin, shaped like a transept, selectively lit and sparsely decorated for each scene. This made theatre of operations, designed by Hans Schaver-

polish. Thereafter he was the model of discretion, tempering nervous energy with respect for his singers' strengths and limitations. The taut expressiveness of his reading was at one with the production. The weakest point in a strong cast was the Alvaro of Veriano Luchetti, whose voice has a pleasant open timbre but lacks weight - his top is suspect and his phrasing correspondingly short. Nor was his acting up to the standard of his non-Italian colleagues: the role could really do with a Carreras. Bruno Pola impressed as Melitone, Wolfgang Brendel's Carlo had a subdued evening - the voice is just about heavy enough, but sounds stubbornly one-dimensional. Marjana Lipovsek was a swashbuckling, peg-legged Preziosilla, a victim as much as a product of war, using a rifle for physical support and her other crutch to make a living.

Kurt Moll, the personification of sobriety and saintliness, was an outstanding Father Superior, his Act II duet with Julia Varady's Leonora undoubtedly the watershed of the performance. Miss Varady sang the same role in Munich's previous Forza production in 1974. She looks and sounds as young as ever and, if the cropped hair and grey uniform of Act II gave her more the appearance of the revolutionary than the penitent, she justified all in her vocal radiance, stamina and tender feminine fragility. She is a complete child of the opera stage, who communicates more about drama in musica in a single phrase than many singers do in a career.

Andrew Clark

London débuts

Maybe the Prince of Wales's hornily on the British-Japanese culture gap had some effect on a respectably full Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear Kinoko Shirane, who now lives in London.

Mistress of the koto, the long, zither-like instrument with 13 individually fretted strings, she spanned three centuries of consistently beguiling music. She performed alone and with Yoshikazu Iwamoto on the shakuhachi, the bamboo flute.

She was joined by Nobuko Imai, distinguished viola player in the Western tradition, for a duo, Of Moonlight, composed by Ryohhei Hirose for the occasion, sharing equal interest between the players in

Jeffrey Cohen's attentive piano partnering was also subtle of detail in a group of Hugo Wolf songs, some of which signalled likeable humour on the singer's part, and Britten's Auden setting. On this Island, were sung with poetic candour. Some further attention to help the verbal sense in English and Italian, not least in personifying the emotions of Haydn's Arianna a Nazos. As a Baroque violin specialist, the American Richard Laby was refreshingly free of mannerism in a programme of unaccompanied Bach. His silver-toned Amati violin, a beautiful instrument of 1623 acquired the more fully to explore the six Sonatas and

Noël Goodwin

Interview

Bernard Mac Lavery (right) has written the script of Lamb, a film based on his first novel, which opens in London next week. He talks to Paul Nathanson



In Cal, Bernard Mac Lavery's much-acclaimed novel, a sense of redemption tempered the ultimate pathos. But in Lamb, the film which he has written based on his first novel and which opens in London next week, there is no such relief. Mac Lavery quietly agrees that it is a story of failure and despair.

Mac Lavery himself, pull-over rolled up to his elbows, revealing white, boyish arms, is hardly melancholic. Renowned for his impish humour, he has as much trouble suppressing his Belfast bonhomie as keeping his battered pipe alight. Lamb tells of a priest, Michael Lamb, who runs away with a boy of twelve from the borsal where he teaches. The boy, Owen, grabs physical freedom, while Lamb escapes his spiritual father, Father Benedict, a sadistic reactionary, who boasts "We teach them a little God and a lot of fear", and "Freedom is an affliction".

Lamb is partly a metaphor for the situation in Northern Ireland, says Mac Lavery. "The strength of feeling that comes out of Lamb is in some way the strength of feeling I've had about Northern Ireland, the parallel being how misdirected love results in tragedy. "Normally writing is the most awful drudge", Mac Lavery explains, "but here one idea led to another and I wrote it very, very quickly in about three months."

Mac Lavery, who once described film writing as reducing paragraphs of prose into grunts, pared the prose so savagely that the story's very structure almost collapsed, and director Colin Gregg had to steer him back to the source material and re-introduce the book into the film.

There was also a hiccup over the title, which producer Neil Zeiger wanted to change. Mac Lavery was equally adamant it should stay and resorted to his spiky, mischievous humour to preserve it, suggesting inane alternatives like The Disillusioned Celibate. Mac Lavery, 43, lean and less jowly than photos suggest, holds the sanctity of his prose in rather less awe and went ahead with the screenplay for three reasons. It was, he says, interesting, lucrative and also a way of protecting the book. Bernard Mac Lavery has a reputation for being philosophical and unflustered while working on films; a convivial, witty man, he has a quiet confidence, oiled by an easy eloquence and frequent laughter - both at himself and the world around him. It is as

though a man whose stories are often so bleak with the recurring themes of conflict and rancour, cannot bear to live with his literary self. "In writing, yes, I tend to be pessimistic, but in myself I think I'm a fair optimist", he observes. "I don't know why that should be, except that coming from Northern Ireland, if you're going to reflect in any way the situation there, you can't write something which would end with head-clinging jollity."

Son of a commercial artist, Mac Lavery caused an immediate stir on entering the world of films at the age of five. Just William was playing in Belfast and the child Bernard was so terrified that he was led from the auditorium in a state of screaming hysteria. His literary career proved less melodramatic and he did not start writing until he was 19. At the time he was a lab technician in the Anatomy Department at Queen's University, Belfast, having been pushed into science at school. Inspired by D. H. Lawrence and Kafka, he spent 10 years "writing badly". Still today he wrestles with writing. At present he is going through "a bad patch", agonizing over the very nature of his prose. More than that he will not say: "I don't want to engage in a discussion of it. If I could, I would know what was wrong."

After his apprenticeship he published his first book of short stories, Secrets, in 1977 and his first novel, Lamb, in 1980, which won critical acclaim as well as a Scottish Arts Council Book Award. Meanwhile, he had abandoned science to do an English degree and become a teacher, taking up his first post in Edinburgh before moving to the Isle of Islay. Now with his wife Madeleine - his most influential critic - and four children he lives in Glasgow.

A present Mac Lavery, who sees himself primarily as writer of fiction, is completing a third book of short stories and also working on a third film script, called Perugia. For the first time the script will not be based on one of his books but on a true story about an Italian in Paris in 1911 of "smile", he says. "A comedy, which is very different to anything I've ever written before. Perhaps it's partly an attempt to shake off the darkness in my work. And people have been telling me not to underestimate comedy. I made a mental Somerset to transfer an Italian in Paris to an Irishman in Britain. If you switch off your tape recorder, I'll tell you what it's all about."

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If the prices don't put some auctions out of your reach, the viewing and sale times certainly will. Sotheby's Conduit Street Sales are devised to fit in with your lifestyle. So there are evening and Sunday viewings, with the sale on the following Monday evening.

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VIEWING TIMES Thursday 29th May 12 noon-8.00 pm Friday 30th May 9.00 am-7.00 pm Sunday 1st June 10.00 am-1.00 pm Monday 2nd June 11.00 am-2.00 pm

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Advertisement for Die Fledermaus. Includes logo for National Theatre and text: "stylish and entertaining" Daily Telegraph. Standby £6.50 from 6.45pm.

Advertisement for Euripides' Medea. Cast includes Philip Bretherton, John Burgess, Lynn Farleigh, Julian Glover, Madhur Jaffrey, Darlene Johnson, Robert Reynolds, Jerome Willis. Directed by Mary McMurtry. Lync Theatre.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page number 3, and various small notices and advertisements.

Explanation of budget 'rating' for universities

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Each of the 53 universities and institutes in Britain were sent a detailed letter last night by the University Grants Committee explaining how their budgets had been fixed for the next academic year and how their research had been rated.

Every university department in the country should know this morning whether it is assessed as average, above average, or whether it is given a star for excellence.

Those departments assessed as below average will get no rating at all. The new review is the first of its kind undertaken by the committee, and should decide whether departments are likely to survive and prosper, or face the axe.

Those departments assessed as below average will get no rating at all. The new review is the first of its kind undertaken by the committee, and should decide whether departments are likely to survive and prosper, or face the axe.

Howls of anguish went up from universities around the country because even those with cash increases said that the allocations would mean cuts in real terms.

College facing deficit in '87

The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, one of four Welsh institutions to be cut, said that it was likely to face a deficit next year of £500,000.

Research basis for assessment

The assessment also takes into account the amount of money from outside the university system that institutions receive for research, but gives no indication of the quality of teaching.

The letters follow last week's details of budget allocations by the committee which imposed cash cuts of up to 0.5 per cent on 18 institutions.

Howls of anguish went up from universities around the country because even those with cash increases said that the allocations would mean cuts in real terms.



Mr Jeffrey Archer with Harpley bronze, "Handstand" (left) and Mr Roger de Grey, academy president, examining "Jack Wayne", by Paolozzi. (Photographs: Peter Triestnor).

Academy's masterpieces of famous and unknown art

By Alan Hamilton

Works of art by the famous and the unknown, priced at between £20 and £34,000, were unveiled at Burlington House, Piccadilly, yesterday at the preview of the Royal Academy's 218th summer exhibition.

often by quite unknown people. The academy hopes that last year's attendance figure of 143,706, the highest since 1959, will be exceeded this year. The exhibition, which opens to the public on Saturday, continues until mid-August.

Party chief beaten by Dutch poll

The Hague (Reuter) - The Dutch Liberal Party will choose a new leader after the completion of negotiations for the renewing of its alliance with the Christian Democrats of Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Prime Minister.

A new generation of pragmatists

Young Americans today are markedly more conservative and less idealistic than early generations, are optimistic, eager for material success, increasingly indifferent to social service and community actions and tend to admire President Reagan.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements: The Princess of Wales visits the Suffolk Agricultural Association's County Show, County Showground, Ipswich, 11.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,057

This puzzle, used as a tie-breaker in the 1986 Leeds regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship, was solved by the winner in 9 minutes.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Answers to the crossword puzzle.

Books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: *Changes in Meaning*, by Adrian Room (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £14.95).

Anniversaries

Births: William Pitt the Younger, prime minister, 1783-1801, 1804-06. Hayes, Kent, 1759; Thomas Moore, poet and musician, Dublin, 1779.

Travel information

British Telecom's pre-coded Traveline service gives regularly updated information on travel in Britain and on the Continent, including details of weather conditions, strikes or other problems likely to affect travellers.

Books - hardback

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Weather forecast

A depression to the N of Scotland will fill. A showery NW flow will affect most areas.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N England, SE, Anglia, Midlands: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy at times, drying out after dark; wind W moderate; max temp 18C (61F).

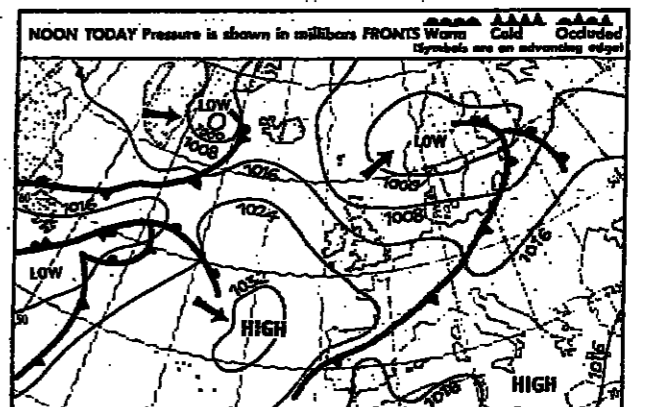


Table of High Tides with columns for location, time, and height.

Lighting-up time

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

Yesterday

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures for various locations yesterday.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Abroad

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

Portfolio Gold

Advertisement for Portfolio Gold, detailing investment options, risks, and contact information.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or date.

COMMODITIES

WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Wall Street share prices climbed further in early trading yesterday, extending the recovery that gave it last week's best gain in more than two months, traders said.

Declining interest rates, carryover buying and speculation that oil prices could fall further, helped the rise, they said.

The Dow Jones Industrial

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

average was up 14.45 points to 1,837.74.

The transportation average was up 3.93 points to 801.89. Advancing issues led declining by a margin of five to three on a thin early volume of eight million shares.

The most active share was Safeway, up 1/4 to 45.

Mr George Pirrone of the Dreyfus Corporation said that full revival of the bull market was still some way off.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns for market rates, bank rates, and discount market rates.

Starting interest compared with 1975 was down at 7.84 (day's rate) 7.5-7.5.

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Excal. *Lloyds Bank International

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for clearing rates, discount market rates, and local authority deposits.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table with columns for clearing rates, discount market rates, and local authority deposits.

GOLD

Table with columns for gold prices and gold certificates.

TREASURY BILLS

Table with columns for Treasury bill prices and yields.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for three month sterling, three month Eurodollar, and US Treasury bonds.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns for dollar spot rates for various countries like Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns for sterling rates for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns for investment trust prices and yields.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table with columns for commodity prices like sugar, cocoa, coffee, etc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table with columns for meat and livestock prices.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Table with columns for meat futures prices.

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Table with columns for potato futures prices.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table with columns for grain futures prices.

LONDON TANKER REPORT

Table with columns for tanker report prices.

LONDON METAL FUTURES

Table with columns for metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table with columns for metal exchange prices.

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Table with columns for metal exchange prices.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table containing various unit trust information, including names, prices, and yields.



TEMPUS

FKI makes the most of opportunity

FKI's success is based on a simple formula. In the somewhat unglamorous specialist electrical engineering sector it has identified a market opportunity...

by mid-1987, the group is intent on building a track record which will enable it to make a quantum leap. The shareholders will need to trust the management not to leap over a cliff, but on present form their trust is unlikely to be misplaced.

GUS/Harris

Queensway

The stock market is taking its time to recognize the importance of last week's deal with Harris Queensway and Great Universal Stores. So far Gussies' "A" shares have risen by only 20p to £10.60p.

As well as suggesting a solution to the potential problem of succession at GUS, the deal throws up an interesting anomaly in the share ratings accorded respectively to GUS and Harris Queensway.

A string of acquisitions last year, £10.5 million worth, helped the company to boost its pretax profit by 66 per cent from £3.5 million to £5.7 million in the 12 months to March 31, 1986.

As part of the deal GUS acquired 23 per cent of Harris Queensway. It will therefore be able to treat Harris Queensway as an associate company and include 23 per cent of Harris Queensway's profit in its reported result.

Even if it does succeed in its search, the effect could take time to feed through to profits. At the same time as scouring the country for suitable purchases, the company is spending capital on Dunhill, the original business taking in lighters and other products for men, and Montblanc, the pen manufacturing operation, which showed the best sales improvement in the group last year.

Mr John Chataway, of the brokers Kitcat & Aitken, expects Harris Queensway to make £60 million in the year to December 1987, allowing for its recent rights issue and the inclusion of Times Furnishing and Home Charm.

By contrast GUS is trading on 12 times forecast earnings for the year to March 1987. Mr Chataway expects it to have made £291 million in the year to March 1986 and he is forecasting £334 million for the current year.

It seems likely that Sir Philip will in time apply the same entrepreneurial flair to

LET aims to develop historic market

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

The Spitalfields Development Group, a consortium of London & Edinburgh Trust, the developer, and Balfour Beatty, the construction company, plans to redevelop the site occupied by the 300-year-old Spitalfields Market on the edge of the City of London with a multi-million pound office, retail and residential scheme.

Talks are underway with the City of London Corporation, owner of the 14 acre site, about moving the fruit, vegetable and flower market to a location owned by LET three miles away at Temple Mills, a former British Rail engineering works.

The market traders favour the move and the developer has asked the corporation to look into the feasibility of its proposals which include keeping the Horner market buildings and protecting the view of Christ Church, which was built by Hawkesmoor.

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets, in whose area Spitalfields is located, is consulting the public about the future of the area.

LET will submit a planning application for the site once that process is complete. The developer is not alone in wanting to redevelop Spitalfields to take advantage of big bang, which is causing financial conglomerates to take large amounts of office space.

Rosehaugh/Stanhope, the developer of nearby Broadgate at Liverpool Street station is also looking at the area. The City Corporation may put the site out to tender, hoping that keen competition will result in a high price being paid for the site.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Sell-off speculation fails to liven up Lonrho share price

Speculation in a rather subdued market yesterday suggested that Tiny Rowland's international trading group Lonrho was close to selling off part of its South African interest in a multi-million pound deal.

Michael Clark, who has an outstanding reputation as a market reporter, has joined The Times as senior stock market correspondent. The first of several new appointments designed to give readers the best daily coverage of the market.

Dealers are convinced that Lonrho has been having secret talks with Mr Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo American Corporation for some time. It completed the deal could be worth \$400 million (£261 million) to Lonrho and would certainly please the City which

Many fund managers believe that Lonrho shares may now start to rise after the expiry of the May traded options today. Speculators will be forced either to take up their options, or cash them in. This will bring a sigh of relief to many jobbers who appear to have worked hard to keep the speculators under pressure. Dealers are already talking the Lonrho share price up to 300p in the weeks ahead.

Expansion plans at Marks and Spencer could be good news for several of its main suppliers, including Stirling Group, 4p dealer at a new peak of 104p. Stirling has already geared up for the increased demand with its new ultra-modern factory in Manchester and the acquisition of rival B. Forster. Analysts are now rerating the shares and looking for pretax profits of £2.3 million against £1.8 million for the year to March just ended.

Grand Metropolitan declined 9p to 406p on a reported denial of an approach from Philip Morris. ICI also reflected the general mood, down 12p to 889p, and British Telecom eased 4p to 236p in spite of recent favourable comment. A surprise bid for Cable House Properties from Ladbroke did little for the shares concerned. Cable losing 3p to 200p and Ladbroke 4p to 335p.

has only just started to warm to Lonrho shares. The renewed speculation in the City about Lonrho's intentions followed a visit by some of the Lonrho board to the offices of Chase Manhattan Securities, one of the bigger dealing houses to emerge from the recent spate of City mergers. But shares of Lonrho failed to reflect the underlying speculation, closing only 1p firmer at 254p. Only a few weeks ago the price had traded as high as 274p amid growing bid speculation.

Expect some good news soon from the fast-growing food manufacturer Hazlewood Foods. Full-year figures expected within the next couple of weeks should make interesting reading, with market men looking for a sharp increase in pretax profits over last year's £6.1 million. Brokers like de Zoete & Bevan are forecasting at least £10 million with £15 million in prospect for 1987. The shares advanced another 10p to 803p.

168p following the 175p terms from Shell. Associated Newspapers, publisher of The Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, greeted the news that its EuroMoney Publications subsidiary is coming to market with a 4p rise to 280p. EuroMoney, which specializes in publishing financial magazines covering banking and the Eurobond market, is expected to be capitalized at £90 million. Associated has a 90 per cent stake in the company.

Bumper profits boosted Dunhill 34p to 500p and Midsummer Inns 15p to 350p.

Japan is world's biggest creditor

From David Watts Tokyo

Japan replaced Britain as the world's biggest net creditor last year. The ministry of finance here reported yesterday that Japan's balance sheet for 1985 showed \$129.8 billion worth of official and private assets abroad in excess of liabilities at the end of last year. That total was \$55.5 billion or almost 75 per cent more than in 1984.

The ministry estimated British net external assets at \$90 billion last year and West Germany's at \$50 billion. United States liabilities were estimated at \$60 billion.

Japan's gross external assets were up by 28.3 per cent, but at \$437.7 billion they still trailed both Britain and the US. The figure for Britain was \$712.2 and for the US \$914.7. A third of Japan's external total comprised stock and bond investments, mostly in the US. The balance of such portfolio investments, totalling \$145.7 billion, was up by 66.4 per cent.

Cornhill Insurance

Our article of May 19 entitled "Auditors walk tight-rope over 'hidden' figures" about the prevalence of "improving" company accounts by hiding poor results, referred to a Department of Trade and Industry finding that "Cornhill's" accounting had been "unusually deceptive". We are glad to make it clear, and we accept, that the company criticized was Cornhill Consolidated, liquidated in 1974, and not the well-known, and wholly unconnected Cornhill Insurance plc, to which we apologize for any confusion caused.

The LONDON STANDARD FOR A GREAT CITY. A GREAT NEWSPAPER.

JUDGEMENT DAY FOR BRITISH BUSINESS

TUESDAY JUNE 10

On June 10th, at a luncheon at the Savoy, British business will have a lot to digest. Its leaders will sit in judgement on their own ability to communicate. The topmost brass from Britain's top 100 companies and the City will be served the most authoritative survey to date on corporate communications.

COMPANY NEWS

- WHIM CREEK: The company says that it intends in 1986 to consolidate and further strengthen its position as the primary gold producer in the Meekeatharra area of western Australia. The chairman, Mr Patrick J. Hughes, says in the annual report that the gold production target for 1986 is 40,000 oz from its Meekeatharra operations. The plant produced 38,086 oz in 1985.
AUSTWHIM RESOURCES: The company, which began gold production at its Cork Tree Well mine last month, expects to run at a capacity of 30,000 oz a year by the end of June. A total of 18,000 oz of gold is planned for the nine months to December 31, 1986, according to the annual report. Although the plant is still in the commissioning stage, gold discoveries are in excess of 90 per cent.
A GOLDBERG & SONS: Results for year to March 29. Dividend 3p (0.5), making 4p (1). It is the directors' intention that future dividends should reflect growth in profitability. Figures in £000. Pretax profit 2,558 (640), tax 1,173 (487). Earnings per share 8.1p (0.9).
HUNTER SAPPHIRE: Final dividend 1.65p, making 2.5p (1.75). Figures in £000 for year to February 28. Turnover 73,649 (64,601), pretax profit 2,143 (1,166), tax 893 (423).
Earnings per share pre-extraordinary items 7.60p (4.92).
HEWDEN-STUART: The company agreed to acquire the entire plant hire interests of the Isis Group, subject to the consent of Isis shareholders. The agreement envisaged a consideration of £6 million. The sum of £4,065 million is to be satisfied by the issue to Isis Plant of six million new Hewden ordinary shares and £883,612 (together with the consideration for the properties of £440,000) will be settled in cash by Hewden-Stuart. Morgan Grenfell has agreed to purchase from Isis Plant the six million new ordinary shares in Hewden-Stuart at 67.34p per share. Morgan Grenfell is placing these shares with institutional investors.
SCOTTISH NATIONAL TRUST: Interim dividend 1.7p (1.5). Figures in £000 for six months to March 31. Gross revenue 3,387 (3,332), net revenue before tax 2,398 (2,130), tax 764 (702). Earnings per share 2.35p (2.21). Revenue account should remain buoyant for the second half. The board intends to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares higher than that of 1985.
HOME BREWERY CO: An interim dividend of 4p per share will be paid on the ordinary shares and S ordinary shares for the year to September 30.
MIDSUMMER INNS: Figures in £000 for 26 weeks to March 31. Turnover 2,950 (932), pretax profit 404 (111), tax nil (same). Earnings per share 11.5p (10.3p adjusted). The second half has started well and the chairman expects to report a further substantial improvement at the year end.
PERICOM: Results for six months to March 31. The directors have decided that interim dividends should be resumed and they have declared an interim of 1p. They expect to at least maintain the final at last year's 1.3p. Figures in £000. Turnover 8,694 (4,436), pretax profit 977 (loss 55), Earnings per share 7.8p (loss 0.6p).
SENIOR ENGINEERING: The company has sold at book value the fixed assets (except the freehold land and buildings) and stocks and work-in-progress of its subsidiary, David Worthington, to Chilcotts for about £120,000 cash.
NMW COMPUTERS: The company, through its subsidiary, Integrated Processing and Communications, and International City Holdings have established a jointly owned company, Ich Microprocessor Systems, to continue the development and marketing of the NMW-designed range of microprocessor work stations. Inch will have a controlling interest of 80.1 per cent and NMW will hold 19.9 per cent.
DON BROTHERS, BUIST: Shell is to make agreed offers, totalling £23 million, for the ordinary and preference capital, subject to Don's pretax profits for 1985-86 being satisfactory. Terms for each ordinary share, 175p of nominal loan notes, 1991, with a cash alternative offer of 175p a share; for each preference share, 74p in cash.
COLOROLL: Group final 3p, making 5p. Figures in £000 for year to March 31. Turnover 60,836 (37,369), pretax profit 6,230 (3,814), tax 2,398 (1,666). Earnings per share 13.6p.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and prices. Includes Equities, Rights Issues, and other financial data.

Interest Rate Change. Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 27th May, 1986, its Base Rate was decreased from 10 1/2% to 10% p.a. Allied Irish Bank.

Firm foundations in the Chinese wall

Financiers working in the same conglomerate need safeguards to avoid a clash of client interests

Scene: a wine bar in the City. At the table are three City characters...

One of them works for the corporate finance department, advising companies on such matters as take-overs, share issues, and mergers.

This combination is perfectly feasible given the size and diversity of the large financial conglomerates, which will be fully operational after the 'Big Bang' deregulation of the Stock Exchange.

It demonstrates the two main needs for the so-called Chinese wall arrangements, whereby information available to one part of a firm is withheld from other sections.

The corporate finance person, for instance, must not pass on any non-public information about the companies he deals with in his department to the market maker, or indeed to the pension fund manager.

Segregation is also essential as a method of resolving situations giving rise to conflicts of interest.

For instance, the corporate financier may be acting for Company A, which is bidding for Company B. If the fund manager has shares in Company B, and is wondering what he should do with them, he should make his decision

purely on an investment basis - what is good for the pension funds he manages - and not be influenced by the needs of his colleague in the corporate finance department.

The Chinese wall system may seem implausible. Moreover the strict segregation it requires may also seem to defeat much of the purpose behind forming financial conglomerates - to group together various functions under the same legal umbrella.

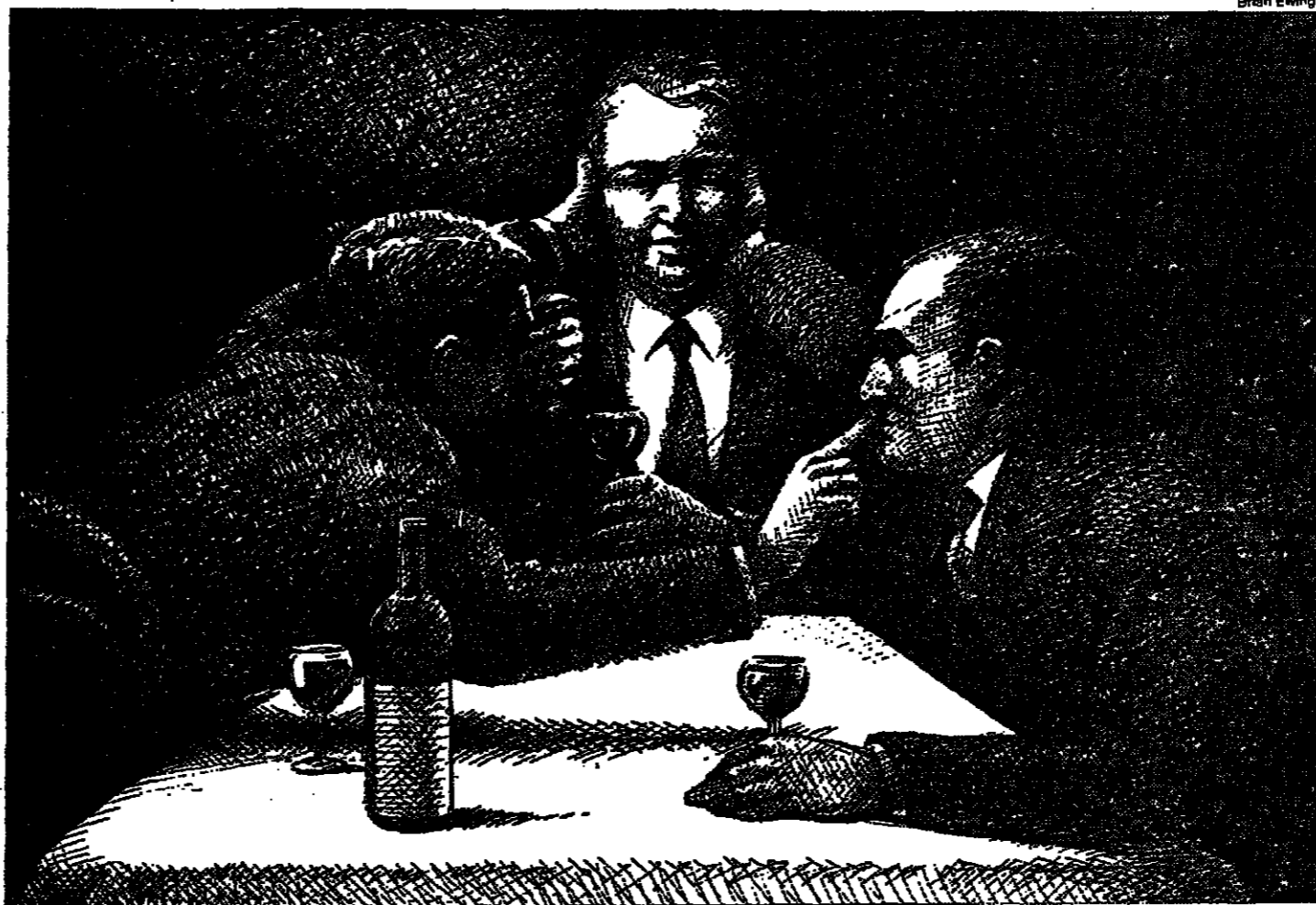
But Chinese walls, rather like belief in a deity, require an effort of faith on the part of the outsider. The conglomerate or firm can of course make this effort a little less

Defence against insider trading

strenuous by having rigorous compliance checks as well as arrangements such as physical separation of departments. Warburg Securities, for instance, have total physical separation of its asset management and dealing functions, with the sections also having separate boards.

Moreover in a world where institutions jump in and out of bed easily, and where reputation of financial services firms counts for so much, the short-term benefit of breaching a Chinese wall could, if detected or even only suspected, spell financial ruin for the firm concerned as the institutions desert for what they consider are more trustworthy havens.

It is therefore vital for firms to establish good compliance procedures - ensuring that employees are aware of what the regulations



Brian Ewing

out to achieve, in other words to be impregnable.

The Board said that it was prepared to provide that where information is genuinely not known to the individuals involved, directly or indirectly, in dealing with the customer, then the interest need not be disclosed. If the interest is not known it cannot affect the advice given.

This statement was the precursor to some tough draft provisions for Chinese walls contained in the draft conduct of business rules issued by the SIB in February.

These made it clear that the SIB wants not just Chinese wall arrangements, but also supervisory procedures to ensure that they are effective. Moreover Chinese walls only obviate the need for disclosure where they would mean that the person dealing did not know, nor could have known, of the existence of a conflict of interest.

In other words genuine and understandable ignorance of a conflict will be excused. Genuine ignorance which is nevertheless not understandable - generally because the person concerned

Disclosure also gives protection

ought to be aware of the conflict - will not be excused.

Chinese wall arrangements will of course be bolstered by the compliance departments which the conglomerates are in the process of developing, and by the provisions requiring reporting and publication of securities transactions, combined with the best execution rule.

Segregation of functions is clearly not going to have an easy ride in the newly established environment. Certainly firms are developing systems for securing it - as far as this is possible when one is dealing with human beings. These will at least, along with regulations, reinforce in people's minds the need to avoid conflicts of duty.

Lawrence Lever

require and establishing the systems and procedures, including Chinese walls, to see that they are complied with. As Stephen Raven, group compliance director at Warburg Securities, says: "Good compliance is good business."

At the moment the new legislation which will govern financial services, and the codes of conduct emerging from it, are prepared to give Chinese walls a chance to prove themselves against the sceptics.

The basic principle of disclosure of interest underpins the Financial Services Bill and the draft "conduct of business" rules produced by the Securities and Investment

Board. In their final form these will provide the benchmark to which all the other mini-regulators and self-regulatory organizations must measure up.

The idea behind disclosure is that if you declare a material interest to a client or investor, then conflicts, potential or otherwise, are neutralized because the decision is in effect his. It is a decision based on all the relevant facts, and underpinned by the fact that he had the opportunity not to proceed.

Disclosure however cannot cater for all situations, as the example of the three employees of the same conglomerate shows.

Hence clause 45 of the Financial Services Bill, which sets out the framework for the conduct of business rules, says that these may make provision "enabling or requiring information obtained by an authorized person in the course of carrying on one part of his business to be withheld by him from persons with whom he deals in the course of carrying on yet another part".

The expression "Chinese walls" is not actually enshrined in the Bill, but it is clear that it is this that it is referring to. Chinese walls do however get a mention in the Licensed Dealers (Conduct of Business) Rules 1983 - a statutory instrument, which says that where

the walls are in place, individuals may advise clients without disclosing that a material interest exists in another part of the firm

Quite how deep and tall the Chinese walls must be remains an open question. The decision rests with the Securities and Investment Board - the SIB - which will produce the conduct of business rules in accordance with Clause 45 of the Bill. The SIB, at the time the Bill was published, reiterated the general principle that material interests must be disclosed to investors, and that Chinese wall arrangements alone are not sufficient to remove this obligation. To do so the arrangements must achieve what they set

Mergers and Acquisitions Tombstone Tally

Table with 2 columns: 1984 and 1985. Each column lists firms ranked by number of deals advertised as initiated in that year. Includes firms like Henry Ansbacher, Goldman Sachs, Citicorp, etc.



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FOCUS



The long queue to buy shares in British Telecom, and below, counting the mass of applications at Lloyds Bank, Moorgate

The great rush to go private

The Government's privatization programme is now in full swing. Selling off state-owned companies is intended to raise nearly £20 billion over the next four years.

This compares with asset sales totalling £7.6 billion in the seven years since the Conservatives took office. The pace of privatization is hotting up but, at the same time, the price of failure has become much higher.

There is no doubt that the successful flotation of British Telecom shares transformed the privatization programme from a cottage industry in the Treasury to the centre of the economic policy stage.

The Telecom issue killed two birds with one stone, transferring assets priced by the Government at £4 billion to the private sector and at the same time fostering wider share ownership.

According to John Moore, the newly appointed Transport secretary, and formerly the financial secretary to the Treasury and the man directly responsible for privatization, wider share ownership is a key element in selling state assets.

"Our strategy is that our first preference is generally a UK public offer for sale with guaranteed participation by employees and the general public," he told the Institute for International Research conference on privatization last month.

"Sometimes, however, the nature of the company which we are selling does not make this a practical proposition. If a public offer is not possible, then a sale which leads to employees holding a major stake is often the next best alternative."

The Telecom sale encouraged about one million people



to own shares who had never done so before, according to Treasury figures.

Share ownership is a key element in selling state assets

It is a lesson that will be carried through to the privatization of British Gas starting this autumn. British Airways (assuming the current difficulties can be resolved), the National Bus Company, Rolls-Royce, the airports, the Royal Ordnance Factories, and looking a little further ahead, the privatization of the water boards.

David Clementi, a director of merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, financial advisers to the Government on the British Telecom sale, believes that the later privatizations are distinguished from the earlier ones by the realization that small investors, rather than just the major financial institutions, are a legitimate market for

Government-sponsored share sales.

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with Dewe Rogerson, the advertising and public relations agency embarked on an energetic campaign to entice small shareholders into British Telecom. It included regional co-ordinators, brochures, advertising and roadshows. The BT train became a familiar sight as it travelled around the country for several weeks.

Having established shareholding in the minds of small investors, Telecom has made it easier for those that follow. It was noticeable that last year's sale of Cable & Wireless shares, with very little direct effort, attracted far more interest from small investors than the previous one, in 1981.

It is a message that the team at N M Rothschild, advising the Government on the privatization of British Gas, has taken fully on board. Whereas the Telecom campaign had to introduce potential shareholders both to the company and to the idea of holding shares, the British Gas campaign can focus on the attractions of the company.

British Telecom attracted 2.3 million applications from shareholders. It is an unofficial target to beat this for British Gas.

The British Gas sale, expected to raise £8 billion, is the major test for privatization. In addition to the small investor and UK financial institutions, it is almost certain that a significant part of the sale will be targeted to foreign buyers.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, Nomura of Japan, Wood Gundy of Canada

and the Swiss Bank Corporation, have been asked to help advise on the overseas aspect of the British Gas sale.

One issue the Government has to look to the City for guidance on is the method of sale for privatization issues. In crude terms, an issue by tender is always in danger of remaining with the underwriters, while a fixed price sale runs the risk that, if the share price subsequently rises sharply, the Government is accused of selling off precious assets cheaply.

John Moore has an answer to the latter point. "It is an

Looking to the City for guidance on methods for new sales issues

easy jibe for some academic theorists who do not understand the market, or our political opponents to say, after the event, that proceeds should have been higher from a particular sale," he said. "They look at the market price in the period after the sale and, if it has gone up, they say that the Exchequer has lost out. What nonsense. The share price performance of companies after privatization is at least partly a reflection of how the profitability and efficiency of the companies have increased as a direct result of being privatized."

The official line is that each sell-off will be taken on its own merits. But it appears that, with the full approval of the Government's various financial advisers, fixed price issues will remain the general rule.

The Government claims to get good value for money from the City out of privatization, countering the charge that asset sales line the pockets of the Conservative Party's supporters in the Square Mile.

Treasury figures show that aggregate stockbroking and underwriting commissions on the latest privatization issues, at less than 1.5 per cent, are below the 2 per cent average for comparable large private sector issues.

The City has good reason to offer keen prices for floating off public corporations. There is a good chance that the financial advisers selected by the relevant Government department in the beauty contest will stay with the privatized company in some form. Privatization offers City firms a chance to project themselves to a large audience, which will become increasingly important in the new, more competitive era.

There is a danger with privatization, that after the jewels have been picked out of the crown and sold, the Government will be left with a lump of unsaleable, loss-making, state industries. However, the addition of the water authorities to the sell-off list, which already contains more than enough for the rest of this decade, suggests that there is still quite a long way to go before this point is reached.

Tactics outstrip rules in code

Writs flying between some of the bid contestants over denigratory ads, the panel's intervention was not totally surprising.

Two more recent rulings have caused controversy over the degree of discretion the panel is allowed to exert. The panel absolved Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, and its client Hillside Holdings from having to produce a cash alternative in the bid for S. & W. Berisford, although the code technically demanded this.

Kleinwort had inadvertently breached the 15 per cent ceiling on share purchases in the year before a bid by buying 15.2 per cent of Berisford. Technically this should have triggered a cash offer to all shareholders at the highest price paid in the market by Hillside. The highest price was well above the paper offer price and enforcement of the rule would have been a bitter pill for Hillside to swallow.

Charterhouse Japhet, Berisford's merchant bank, asked the panel to enforce the rule, but was turned down. The panel stressed that it considered the rule important, but was not enforcing it in this case because the breach was both small and inadvertent.

The full panel, consisting of a dozen representatives of City organizations, including merchant banks, insurance companies, clearing banks, pension funds and industry representatives, was convened to consider the 15 per cent breach issue. The executive, which handles the day-to-day

David Smith
Economics correspondent

Fair play watchdogs in the takeover tussles

The surge in takeover activity on the stock market coupled with the growing tendency to use new and more aggressive tactics has created a heavy workload for the takeover panel - the City body responsible for policing bid battles. Last year's £9 billion worth of bids looks set to be exceeded comfortably this year. The two biggest completed takeovers so far this year - Hanson Trust for Imperial and Guinness for Distillers - have already added up to more than £5 billion. Two more bitterly contested giant bids - Dixons for Woolworth and Lloyds Bank for Standard Chartered - are now in progress.

The takeover panel is being called on more and more to arbitrate in these often bitter battles. Its primary function is to ensure that all shareholders are treated equally. If the panel, however, fails to give the desired answer, the aggrieved party will now often take the case to court.

The tendency to seek a judicial review, rather than accept the takeover code as interpreted by the panel, presents problems of authority for the panel. The 140 pages of the code attempt to spell out how a bid should be conducted, but changing tactics sometimes mean the code has not got the appropriate rule for the new situation.

The panel has no statutory backing and is therefore frequently accused of having no teeth. It relies for its effectiveness on willingness among City institutions to obey its rulings. The fear is that with the Big Bang approaching, conflicts of interest proliferating and competition increasing, the temptation will grow to flout the panel. As it stands the panel has no sanction against potential offenders.

In recent months the panel has come under fire for some of its decisions. In March it announced a new code aimed at banning knocking advertising in a bid battle. The advertising industry was immediately up in arms criticizing the panel for meddling in areas which it felt were the responsibility of the Advertising Standards Authority.

The panel has always had a duty to vet advertising copy to see that it complied with the code, but it clearly felt that some of the full-page ads being taken out in national newspapers were going too far. With



John Walker-Haworth will head a team of executives in the new era after Big Bang - but will the panel be able to retain its voluntary role?

against the full panel's decision. The full panel, which does not include the executive, is itself much like a final court of appeal. The full panel has to give permission for an appeal to be lodged.

The system, despite the recent strains caused not least by the pressure of work on the executive, has functioned fairly effectively to date. City institutions do respect the code and the panel enforcing it, although the fear that was once inspired in a merchant banker when he was summoned to explain himself before the panel has long since evaporated.

The executive is headed by John Walker-Haworth, who has absented himself for two

decisions, had already indicated that it did not think Kleinwort's breach would involve a cash offer. However, a full panel meeting was called because of sensitivity after the full panel had overturned the decision of the executive on another matter.

The full panel had decided that Robert Maxwell's acceptance of a non-executive directorship on the board of Demerger, the company bidding for Exel, constituted a concert party. The executive had earlier ruled that there was no concert party and Mr Maxwell had consequently bought more shares in Exel.

The Demerger bid, to which Mr Maxwell held 13 per cent holding in Exel, has now lapsed, but Mr Maxwell is prevented from launching his own bid for another year. He has also spent around £5 million on the additional shares, which are now worth far less in the market-place in the absence of bid speculation.

The apparent division between the executive and the full panel has caused nervousness in some quarters about placing too much reliance on an executive ruling. There is virtually no right of appeal

Final court of appeal

years from S.G. Warburg, the merchant bank. Mr Walker-Haworth presides over a team of 11 executives and a supporting secretarial staff. The full panel is headed by Sir Jasper Hottom, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Whether the panel will be able to retain its self-regulatory and voluntary role in the new era after the Big Bang depends to a large extent on how far the various bidding companies and their merchant bank advisers are prepared to push against the spirit of the code, rather than its letter. If America, where takeover battles are generally easier as rules about shareholder equality do not exist, the panel has a hard time ahead of it.

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Privatizations (profit and loss record)

Company	Date Sold	SALES SO FAR			Minimum Holding	Value at	Profit/(Loss)
		Sale Price	Proceeds (£m)	Price at 23.5.86			
British Aerospace	Feb 81	150	547	43	50	273.5 198.5	
Cable & Wireless	May 85	375	547	346	100	547 172	
	Oct 81	168	635	182	100	635 467	
	Dec 83	275	635	263	100	635 380	
Amersham Int	Feb 82	142	370	64	100	370 228	
	Nov 82	215	178	627	100	178 (37)	
Britoil	Nov 85	185	178	431	200	356 (7)	
	Aug 85	185	178	431	200	356 (7)	
Associated British Ports	Feb 83	112	590	46	100	590 478	
	Apr 84	270	590	53	100	590 320	
Enterprise Oil	Jun 84	185	121	380	100	121 (64)	
Jaguar	Jul 84	165	467	297	100	467 302	
British Telecom	Nov 84	130	230	2,516	200	460 200	

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Low turnover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 12. Dealings end May 30. Contango day June 2. Settlement day June 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gains or Loss. Lists various companies like Nat Aust Bk, Rank Org, Laird, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: Day (Mon-Fri), Dividend amount.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, %.

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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, %.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, %.

UNDATED table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, %.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, %.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Bank Name, Price, Change, %.

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Table of brewery companies like Abert-Lons, Beck's, etc.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table of building and road companies like American Const, etc.

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Table of finance and land companies like Abert-Lons, etc.

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HOTELS AND CATERERS

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Table of industrial companies A-D like A&A, etc.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Table of industrial companies E-K like Easton, etc.

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Table of industrial companies L-R like Lloyds, etc.

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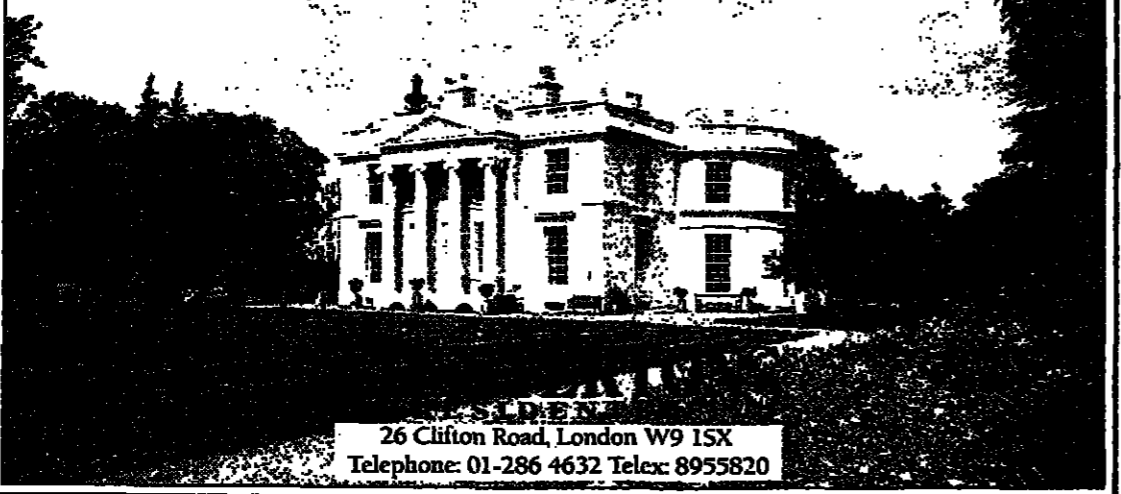
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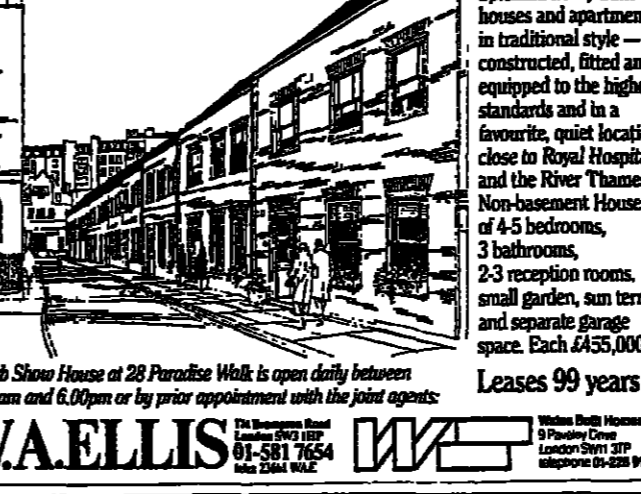


25/27, Evelyn Gardens, London, S.W.7

This attractive pair of Victorian buildings have been beautifully modernised to provide thirteen individually designed, one and two bedroom, and studio apartments.

- AMENITIES INCLUDE Fitted Carpets Conservatories, Patios and Terraces Curtains in some apartments Fully Fitted Kitchens Specialise Paint Finishes Fast Hydraulic Lift Burglar Alarms

Paradise Walk, Chelsea, London SW3 A new development by Wates Built Homes Ltd.



Superb Show House at 28 Paradise Walk is open daily between 10.00am and 6.00pm or by prior appointment with the joint agents: W.A. ELLIS

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

COOMBE HILL An impressively designed newly constructed development of 20 detached houses in a superb location...

WIMBLEDON PARK WIMBLEDON PARK Very spacious 4 double bedroom detached house...

QUINTON SCOTT & CO. Sell and let property in the London area. Tel: 01-896 9000

PROPERTY TO LET LONDON BEXLEYHEATH Luv 3 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

BESTFUL FIED A TERM IN central W. End St. George's Street, 1st floor, 1st floor, 1st floor...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

REVERSHAM FLATS, Kingston, Surrey. New development of 30 flats...

WIMBORNE PARK, Wokingham, Berkshire. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

THE PERIOD PROPERTY REGISTER Each month The Register Catalogue hundreds of old and historic homes...

RETIRES IN DIGNITY to the glorious surroundings of a large detached house...

WEST SUFFOLK Lush, mature garden, 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

BRACKNELL 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

CHICHESTER 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

WIMBORNE PARK, Wokingham, Berkshire. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

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28-29 COLLINGHAM GARDENS Kensington, London SW5 Ten superbly planned and impeccably presented apartments - for sale on 150 year leases

W.A. ELLIS 174 Brompton Road London SW3 1HP Tel: 01-581 7654

7/9 Draycott Place, London SW3 Two most impressive late Victorian period houses with red brick facades and beautiful bay windows...

W.A. ELLIS 174 Brompton Road London SW3 1HP Tel: 01-581 7654

Roberts Court 43-49 BARKSTON GARDENS LONDON SW5 Overlooking a beautiful Garden Square in South Kensington

REMOV Speedy Removals. A cartoon illustration of a man in a suit pushing a large, heavy box on a dolly. The word 'REMOV' is written in large, bold letters across the scene.

LB MORTGAGE NEWS "NON-STATUS" LOANS AT 11% Residential up to 75% of purchase price or valuation, which ever is lower. Status up to 95% at 11%.

Winkworth MORTGAGES TERMS NOW AVAILABLE 3 1/2 times income or 2 1/2 times joint income 100% mortgages available

QUAY HOUSE, WATERSIDE, E14 16,650 Sq Ft net approx. Prestige new offices in the heart of London's Enterprise Zone.

BETWEEN THE COMMONS Arner Road SW11. 1 min Clapham Common. Fully modernised luxury terraced house...

NORTH OF THE THAMES EATON PLACE Large unimproved freehold house in prime location. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

Geo. Joslin WIMBORNE COURT WIL. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

ELM PARK GARDENS SW18 Immediate and bright 3rd floor flat in the heart of Chelsea...

BELZES PARK FABULOUS 3 1/2 bedrm luxury penthouse with outstanding views of London...

STEPHANESEN LTD 01-221 7582 2 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

LONDON, N.W.6 The Avenue, Bayswater Park. Superb luxury detached house in park...

BALCONY FLAT CORNWALL FLATS 1st floor balcony flat in prime location...

WEST HAMPSHIRE Superior detached house in prime location. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

WEST HAMPSHIRE Superior detached house in prime location. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

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WEST HAMPSHIRE Superior detached house in prime location. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

Daniel Smith PRATT WALK, SE1 Newly spacious Georgian house in prime location...

ON WANDSWORTH COMMON Conservation area. Edwardian detached house...

BRACKNELL 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

WIMBORNE PARK, Wokingham, Berkshire. 4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2nd floor, 2nd hand, 2nd hand...

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Country Property Southam LITTLE ADDINGTON Northamptonshire Exceptional detached mature bungalow in elevated commanding village...

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When you need a bigger house, we'll give you a bigger mortgage. At NatWest there is no ceiling on the size of the loan available. You don't have to be a NatWest customer. For written details just pop in to your nearest NatWest bank or write to: The Home Loans Manager, National Westminster Bank PLC, Marketing Department, FREEPOST 2, London EC2B 2ED.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Elizabethan and little changed

The Viscount and Viscountess Garmoyne are selling their Elizabethan manor house, Queen Hoo Hall (pictured right), near Hertford, a Grade II building set in a rural position overlooking the Lea Valley. Much of the property has remained virtually unaltered for 400 years since it was built; Queen Elizabeth I is believed to have used it as a hunting lodge when it was occupied by Edward Skogges. The house has four reception rooms, five or six bedrooms and outbuildings. There are formal gardens enclosed by an original brick wall and four paddocks, making a total of 17 acres. The property, with two cottages, is for sale through Lane Fox and Partners, who are asking for offers over £500,000.



Queen Hoo Hall, built near Hertford about 400 years ago

The £8 million lodge

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

1086 and all that The Rectory at Hurley-on-Thames, between Marlow and Henley, was built in 1086 and is now one of the oldest inhabited dwellings in England. Originally part of a Benedictine monastery, the building and grounds are Grade II listed and the building itself is designated an Ancient Monument. Since 1950 the property, in six acres, has been converted and restored by Nicholas Somers-Straussler, an inventor and engineer, and is now occupied by his son. There is 5,500 square feet of accommodation, which includes numerous architectural features of the Norman Period, with a moat of about 400 feet. A.C. Frost and Co of Windsor want more than £600,000 for the property, which includes a building plot for a "substantial" residence.

full asking price for these spacious apartments, singly or together. One has been furnished in what is becoming known as Dynasty-style lavishness, with marble everywhere and a water "feature" running down some steps. The cause of conservation has nevertheless had a say in this palatial development, because a 100-year-old fig tree, gnarled and bent over, has been preserved as part of the planning consent; it even had to be shored up during construction work. The house stands between Park Saint James and St James's Terrace Mews, a new development of four town houses, which have either three bedrooms and three bathrooms, or two bedrooms and two bathrooms. These delightful houses, which have roof terraces or balconies overlooking landscaped gardens, and inside have galleries, are for sale through Lassmans, at prices ranging from £255,000 to £395,000. Tucked in behind the tall block, they have three or four floors. The Park Road development is Crown Court, by the Rosehaugh Co-Partnership, a seven-story block of 23 apartments. The company specializes in high-quality houses and what it hopes to be excellent investments, a point which seems to have been taken up by buyers - 18 of the apartments have already been sold six months before completion. A feature of the development is the large reception area. There is a special air-cooling system to the main rooms, as well as resident portage, underground parking and an electronic security system. The five apartments remaining have two or three bedrooms, two bathrooms and double reception room, and the prices, through Hampton and Sons, range from £295,000 to £420,000.

Healthy Victoriana The Sittings at Portishead, overlooking the Bristol Channel, was built in the 1830s and was used to allow the Victorians to take salt-water baths for the good of their health. It was adapted in the 1930s to form a family home. Standing in grounds of about one acre, with a 150-yard frontage to the Channel and fine views across it, The Sittings has three reception rooms, four main bedrooms and two more on the lower ground floor. It is for sale at £197,500 through Hoddell Pritchard of Bristol.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

Country Properties - SUMMER 1986. This illustrated colour brochure shows properties which are available throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Includes sections for Suffolk Coast, North Wales, Kent Barham, and others. Contact: Glynllivon Estate Office, Llanwnda, Caernarfon. Tel: (0286) 830217.

Lane Fox & Partners with Rylands

Advertisement for Lane Fox & Partners with Rylands, listing various properties for sale in Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, and Gloucestershire. Includes details on acreage, room counts, and contact information for Banbury and London offices.

CLUTTONS

Advertisement for Cluttons, listing properties in Brighton, East Sussex, and Canterbury. Includes details on property features and contact information for Brighton and Canterbury offices.

PEREDS

Advertisement for Pereds, property consultants and international real estate agents. Features a 'SURREAL ESTATE IN SUSSEX' (London 60 miles) with 66 acres, 6 beds, 4 bathrooms, and a surrealistic modification of a Lutyns house. Contact: Pereds London Telephone: 01-221 1404.

BETWEEN GUILDFORD AND WOKING, SURREY

Advertisement for a property between Guildford and Woking, Surrey. Features a 'FINE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE' with 132 acres, 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and a hall. Contact: Jackson-Stops & Staff, Tel: (0432) 502222.

Sworders

Advertisement for Sworders, listing a 'SAFFRON WALDEN (60 MINS CITY)' property. Features a 'FINE PERIOD FARMHOUSE' with 3 reception rooms and 6 bedrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

GLOUCESTER

Advertisement for Gloucester, listing a 'STONE PERIOD COTTAGE' with 146 sq ft, 17th Century, and a 'COTTAGE' with 100 sq ft, 18th Century. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

HOMEOWNERS (OVER 67?)

Advertisement for homebuyers over 67, offering a 'FREE CAPITAL FUND IN YOUR HOUSE'. Contact: Mr. T. Lynn, J.G. INSKIP and CO., Tel: (0234) 40511.

DEVON & CORNWALL

Advertisement for Devon & Cornwall, listing a 'MODBURY LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

DETACHED 18TH CENTURY

Advertisement for a detached 18th century house in Devon, featuring a 'LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

WITHIN 2 MILES

Advertisement for a property within 2 miles of a town, featuring a 'LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

ESSEX

Advertisement for Essex, listing a 'LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

SUFFOLK

Advertisement for Suffolk, listing a 'LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

WILTSHIRE

Advertisement for Wiltshire, listing a 'LARGE 1840'S TOWN HOUSE' with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. Contact: Sworders, Tel: 0799-22628.

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Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring various property listings and contact information for different regions like Dorset, Hampshire, and Wiltshire.

CRICKET

Gloucestershire rewarded as Walsh ends the resistance

By Richard Streeton

BOURNEOUTH: Gloucestershire (2) beat Hampshire (2) by 146 runs. A startling collapse by Hampshire...

Hampshire made a promising start to their target of 257 in 62 overs when Terry and Chris Smith passed 50 in the eleventh over...

It was sunny at Dean Park but distinctly breezy as Hampshire set out to their final innings...

Chris Smith gave a slip catch against Payne at the other end before Walsh had Nicholas taken down the leg side...

Winds of change lost in a gale. Lancashire, having batted with little ambition, made a tardy declaration...

There was less movement from the Lancashire batsman, whose suspicion of the pitch, a deteriorating slow turner...

By lunch Lancashire had added 85 in 44 overs for the loss of four wickets...

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Hitting the heights: Imran after taking his eighth wicket at Lord's yesterday

Extra class of Imran lifts Sussex off the bottom

By Ivo Tennant

LORDS: Sussex (22pts) beat Middlesex (8) by seven wickets. The all-round brilliance of Imran Khan manifested itself yesterday...

It was a remarkable feat in that, even allowing for the fact that the Middlesex batting lacked Slack, Cutting and Downton...

It might well have been that, in allowing Derbyshire the room to defy logic in the way Nottinghamshire did...

At New Road, Worcester, Worcestershire will be making a determined effort against Northamptonshire to reach the semi-final round for the first time since 1980...

At the Oval, Surrey, Surrey will be making a determined effort against Northamptonshire to reach the semi-final round for the first time since 1980...

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Tailenders check Somerset's progress

By Alan Gibson

CARDIFF: Glamorgan (6pts) defeat Somerset (5). Glamorgan began at 23 for no wicket, 22 behind, and the pale buff pitch was expected to give them some trouble...

However, Marks took the last two wickets fairly quickly after tea, giving him 14 in the match, and Somerset needed to score 199 in a theoretical 23 overs...

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Marsh must go out to show range of shots

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Terry Marsh, the European light welterweight champion, keeps his hopes in for his defence of the World Boxing Association title held by Patrizio Oliva, of Italy...

Marsh's last two bouts, against Tex N'Kalendete, of France, and Francesco Prezioso, of Italy, were heavy tactical encounters in which Marsh's upright boxing was not seen to advantage...

Now that the left hand has healed, one hopes he will use Kaiser to sharpen up the old stand-up, aggressive style - jabbing crisply before going in with both hands.

Rather than trying to stop the American Marsh, it would do well to go for a comfortable points win and in the process test out his growing repertoire of shots which he would need against a complete boxer like Oliva...

Chris Pyatt, who won the British light-middleweight title the impressive way in France Rodney in February, has been named official challenger to the European champion, Said Skouma, of France.

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Barclay returns to the fray

By Peter Marson

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Another sorry Warwickshire batting story

Set to make 206 to win, Warwickshire failed badly at Edgbaston yesterday, falling 72 runs short of their target...

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Cole races to 20 mark with Leicester double

Paul Cole, who has made an excellent start from his new stable at Watcombe, became the first trainer to reach the 20-mark this season when he saddled a 29-1 double with Flossie and Dream Chaser at Leicester yesterday.

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YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Table with columns for Warwicks v Worcs, Northants v Leics, and other cricket matches with scores and player statistics.

MOTOR RACING

Father of de Angelis seeks judicial inquiry. The complaint said track workers were slow getting to the accident scene...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for Cricket, Basketball, Cycling, Golf, and Tennis.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing records for Basketball, Cycling, Golf, and Tennis.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Continued from page 39

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Christopher Daville

BBC 1
6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott.

TV-AM
6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anna Diamond and Henry Kelly.

IN THE AFRICANS (BBC1, 9.30pm)
Professor Ali Mazrui says cut to Africa which Alistair Cooke once memorably did for America.

CHOICE
heritage, comprising its own national, African and Western colonization. A Kenyan-born Moslem who now teaches in Michigan, the professional and the land respectability peak-hour viewing and maybe pick up an award or two.

TRADEWINDS (BBC2, 7.20pm)
is the first of two programmes in the second tomorrow - about the last years of the trading schooners.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

9.20 Ceefax 10.05 Gharbar. Actress-turned-singer Pushpa Hans talks to Surinder Kochhar about her decision to change careers.

ITV/LONDON
9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Once Upon a Time in the Garden.

BBC 2
6.55 Open University: Psychology - the TV Studio. Ends at 7.20.

CHANNEL 4
2.30 Rehearsal. An award-winning documentary that looks at rehearsals for four different kinds of musical performance.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

1.20 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore. Includes news headlines with subtitles.

11.05 Indian Legends of Canada. An Indian chief's experiences during the Path of Souls 11-30 about Britain.

3.30 Box Extra: Derby Day. A documentary about the wonderful cross-section of people who make Derby Day such a spectacular occasion.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

1.55 Cricket. Further coverage of a Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final match.

12.00 Portland Bill. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.10 The Blenders.

5.00 M*A*S*H. Frank becomes infuriated by Hawkeye's and Trapper's jokes.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

5.00 M*A*S*H. Frank becomes infuriated by Hawkeye's and Trapper's jokes.

7.00 Where There's Life... The story of Alan Counsell, a cerebral palsy sufferer.

9.00 M*A*S*H. Frank becomes infuriated by Hawkeye's and Trapper's jokes.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

9.00 News with Julia Somerville and John Humphrys.

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Pamela Armstrong.

10.45 Newsnight. The latest national and international news including a role in the coverage of one of the main news stories of the day.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Pamela Armstrong.

10.30 Midweek Sport Special. Reports from the three home counties World Cup quarter-final matches.

10.45 Newsnight. The latest national and international news including a role in the coverage of one of the main news stories of the day.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

10.30 Midweek Sport Special. Reports from the three home counties World Cup quarter-final matches.

12.00 The Monkey's Paw. An old story in turn of the century New York by Jerome K. Jerome.

12.10 Open University: Appearance and Reality. 25.35 Moving Muscles. Ends at 1.05.

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

12.10 Open University: Appearance and Reality. 25.35 Moving Muscles. Ends at 1.05.

12.15 Night Thoughts.

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Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

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Radio 4
On long wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 4.

Radio 5
5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 First Night Impressions.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

BBC 1
18.15 New Frontiers. (r) Chamberlain. The British Symphony No 67, in F. Joachim Achuro (piano). Bach, arr. Busoni (piano). Chopin, Adagio and Fugue in C major, BWV 564. Brahms (Three Intermezzi, Op 117). Chopin (Sonata in B minor, Op 58). Divertimento, com. Nicholas Kraemer, with Fiona Dore (soprano). Evelyn Nallen (recorder). Tippett's Fantasia Concertante on a theme of Corelli. Riddour's Recorder Concerto and Britten's Les Illuminations.

Radio 2
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 2.

Radio 1
On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 1.

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newswatch. 6.30 Mendenhall 7.00 News.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
BBC1 Wales 5.30pm-6.00pm. Wales Today 6.05-7.00pm.

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ENTERTAINMENT
CONCERTS
BARRACLOUGH 8.30pm-9.30pm. The 7.45 Yards, Carver (piano). Dan. The 7.45 Yards, Carver (piano). Dan.

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